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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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May 17, 2010

Ald. Bob Donovan  
(414) 708-2096

## No Occupancy Permit, No Problem for Sex Offenders to Live Down the Block

*Alderman Donovanirate at State Early Release Felons Housed Without Occupancy Permit or Public Notice in Near South Side House; News Conference Today*

The state has quietly placed at least three men with histories of criminal sexual offenses in a home on Milwaukee's near south side without notifying neighborhood residents and without securing an occupancy permit from the city's Board of Zoning Appeals, according to **Alderman Bob Donovan**, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee.

Alderman Donovan, who earlier this year railed against the state early release measure that he says could put thousands of prison inmates back on Milwaukee's streets, is livid with state officials who apparently placed the men in a home at **2407 W. Orchard St.** several weeks ago without any public notification whatsoever. **The alderman will hold a news conference near the home today at 12:30 p.m.**

"The state officials who put these sex offenders in that house don't give a rat's ass about my constituents or the City of Milwaukee," Alderman Donovan said. "They don't care that we have good, honest, hard working people who are trying to make their neighborhoods better and safer through Block Watch groups and such. And, it's only going to get worse, because my gut tells me they (state corrections) are going to be doing this more and more as they flush these jailbirds out and back to the streets (as part of the early release program)."

Alderman Donovan has said that a minimum of 65% to 75% of the roughly 3,000 inmates eligible for early release as part of the state budget's Criminal Justice Reform Initiative will return to the Milwaukee area, where – based on the documented high rate of recidivism – many will re-offend. In January, Alderman Donovan sent a letter co-signed by several Common Council colleagues asking Governor Jim Doyle to suspend the early release portion of the initiative.

-More-

## **Offenders Living at House /ADD ONE**

Alderman Donovan has confirmed that the men are currently “under state monitoring” because of their past sex crimes. He’s asked the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) to take action to shut down the house if it is found that it is being used as a transitional living facility without an occupancy permit – something typically issued only after neighbors are notified and following a public hearing in front of the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Under Chief Edward Flynn, the Milwaukee Police Department has significantly reduced crime in the city, including a 25% drop in total violent crime over the past two years and double-digit decreases in robbery, aggravated assault, and auto theft, Alderman Donovan said.

“I fear for the safety of people in my neighborhoods, and I fear that the gains and progress we’ve made will be erased by the influx of newly-released inmates,” he said.

Alderman Donovan has said the city is made even more vulnerable because of its high rate of police officer vacancies – set to approach 300 by later this year. .