
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 27, 2010

Bill Arnold
(414) 286-3285

Council Members Unanimous on Flooding Task Force; State Smoking Ban Implemented Locally

The Milwaukee Common Council today supported Alderman Jim Bohl's proposal for a **Flooding Study Task Force** with a 15-0 vote and every member opting in as co-sponsor to the legislation. The initiative proposes to coordinate agencies like the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, city Department of Public Works and the Common Council to examine key flooding issues, including basement sewage backups and possible remedies for homeowners (including offering incentives for installing sewer backflow preventer valves), excessive flooding of streets and alleyways and the overall capacity of the city's sewer and storm water systems.

The Council approved a substitute ordinance implementing state law regulating indoor and outdoor smoking of tobacco and tobacco products on a 12-3 vote. The law applies to enclosed places where persons are employed, retail establishments, enclosed places where members of the public may be permitted access, educational facilities and common areas in multi-family dwellings.

The measure also prohibits smoking in certain outdoor locations. The substitution approved by the Council defines an "enclosed place" as "all space between a floor and ceiling that is bounded by walls, doors, or windows, whether open or closed, covering more than 50 percent of the combined surface area of vertical planes constituting the perimeter of the area."

This is significantly different from the state definition, which is described as "an area with a roof and more than two substantial walls."

-MORE-

Council Actions/ADD ONE

In other matters, the Council today:

-Held in Council the measure revoking and terminating the City of Milwaukee's charter school contract with the Academy of Learning and Leadership until September 1, 2010.

The motion serves to accommodate the needs of the students, teachers and faculty in relocating and was done with the understanding that they will not operate as a school during the holding period.

This termination was approved after the Charter School Review Committee determined that pupils enrolled at the Academy had failed to make sufficient progress toward attaining the academic performance criteria established by the city.

-Passed a resolution accepting a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy that funds the city's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Retrofit Ramp-up Program. The grant creates opportunities for homeowners to audit their energy use and implement strategies to make their homes more energy efficient. The grant also helps create more green jobs in the Milwaukee area.