Common Council to Hear from Milwaukee Bucks’ Hammond, to Deal with MFD Staffing, Licensing and Razing Issues

John Hammond, general manager of the Milwaukee Bucks, will address the Common Council tomorrow about the state of the Bucks franchise. Hammond is the first speaker of 2010, and third overall, as part of the President’s Speaker Series, created by Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.

The Council meeting will be held tomorrow (Tuesday, February 9, 2010) at 9 a.m. in the third floor Common Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Media coverage is invited.

The meeting will be telecast on City Channel 25 (Time Warner Cable in the city) or Channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse.

In other matters, Alderman Robert J. Bauman will present a resolution temporarily suspending all city razing and demolition activities until the Department of Neighborhood Services has made modifications in its bidding requirements allowing for deconstruction activities. Included in the modifications are bonding and insurance requirements as well as any other provisions which impede or discourage deconstruction activities.

A fairly new term, “deconstruction” refers to the disassembly of structures for the purpose of reusing the structures’ components and building materials. The “green” technique is utilized to divert the maximum amount of building materials from the waste stream (and the landfill).

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Alderman Bob Donovan will seek a full Council vote on his proposal to take more than $1 million from the city’s contingency fund in 2010 to bring back Ladder 10, which was decommissioned in December 2009 as part of the Milwaukee Fire Department’s response to 2010 budget reductions. Last week, the Finance and Personnel Committee voted 5-0 to recommend that the item be placed on file.

The Common Council’s Licenses Committee also is recommending action on various licensing issues, including one jewelry store found by Milwaukee police to be selling stolen jewelry last year, and Milwaukee dancing and night club establishments with past troubles.

The license matters include:

- Recommendation of the Licenses Committee to renew, based on a 15-day suspension of the Class “B” tavern and amusement, the licenses for Questions night club, 3041 W. North Ave. The club has been operating for more than a year under a judge’s temporary restraining order after efforts failed last January to impose sanctions for incidents, disturbances, traffic problems, and repeated police calls. Owner Devon Reid is reportedly proposing a change in the entertainment offered at the location.

- Recommendation of the Licenses Committee to revoke the Class “B” license of The Brew House, 2936 S. 13th St.

- Recommendation of the Licenses Committee to suspend the precious metal and gem dealer license of John’s Jewelry, 1119 W. Mitchell St., for 45 days. In October, Milwaukee police seized 1,200 stolen jewelry items valued at more than $75,000 from John’s and three other south side stores. Those other three stores voluntarily surrendered their precious metals and gem dealers licenses last month.

- Recommendation of the Licenses Committee to renew, with a 10-day suspension, the Class “B” tavern and tavern dance license of Saleh Salem for Club Fuego, 430 S. 2nd St.

The Council will also approve 75 commendatory/condolatory commendations – a record or near record number not seen in at least 25 years.