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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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November 22, 2011

Ald. Robert Bauman  
(414) 286-2221

## City to Showcase Award-Nominated Historic Homes

*Media tour of restored city-owned properties will take place Wednesday  
afternoon*

Tomorrow **Alderman Robert J. Bauman** and city officials will hold a news conference and allow media tours of two 125-year-old near west side homes that have been restored and are now nominated to receive historic preservation awards.

The news conference will be held at **2 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, November 23) inside 822 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St.** – one of the homes being showcased. City staff members from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Department of City Development will also be available during and after the news conference with Alderman Bauman.

Reporters and photographers will also be able to tour **814 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St.**, and see exterior work being completed on a similar city-owned property at **2742 W. State St.** The two restored homes on N. 26<sup>th</sup> St. have been nominated to receive Cream of the Cream City Historic Preservation Awards from the HPC.

Alderman Bauman said the homes at 814 and 822 N. 26<sup>th</sup> were both acquired by the city's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corp. using funds earmarked for neighborhood stabilization purposes. "These homes were both in foreclosure and needed some tender loving care, and the city hired qualified contractors who performed the work in accordance with our historic preservation standards," he said, noting that both homes are now for sale.

**-More-**

## **Restored Homes/ADD ONE**

The level of minority contractor participation on the restoration projects has also been impressive, Alderman Bauman said. A minority contractor is currently carrying out roofing work at the 2742 W. State St. home, and work performed at 822 N. 26<sup>th</sup> St. had a minority/emerging business enterprise participation rate of 59%.

### **About the homes**

According to the HPC, after 125 years the houses at 814 and 822 N. 26th St. have been restored to as good as new condition and are part of the renaissance on Milwaukee's near west side. They are good examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture that was popular during the late 1880s in Milwaukee and, typical of fine homes from that era, they feature meticulously crafted exterior woodwork, which was carefully restored during the City of Milwaukee-administered project. The transformation of the homes from their former state is dramatic and their multiple-color exterior paint schemes give each house an eye-catching, curbside appeal. The interiors feature some of the original woodwork that Victorian-era houses in Milwaukee are noted for, including fine hardwood floors, open staircases and fireplaces.

Before-and-after photos of the properties will also be available during Wednesday's event.