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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

May 3, 2012

Ald. Michael Murphy  
(414) 286-3763

## **Alderman Murphy honored with inaugural Hero Award from Common Ground**

**Alderman Michael J. Murphy** has been honored by Southeastern Wisconsin Common Ground as a recipient of the first ever “Common Ground Hero Award” for his work in fighting the foreclosure crisis in Milwaukee.

The Common Ground Hero awards were bestowed last weekend during a special event at the Italian Conference Center as “a thank you from our membership to organizations and individuals that have been an integral part of the success of The Milwaukee Rising Redevelopment Project,” according to Kathleen Scott of Common Ground.

Alderman Murphy said he was pleasantly surprised by the award, and he also praised the efforts of Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Alderman Robert J. Bauman, Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. and other Council colleagues who have “put in many hours of work in the foreclosure fight.” “It was truly an honor to be presented with the award, and as my colleagues and I well know, the fight against Milwaukee’s foreclosure crisis and its impact on our neighborhoods will continue,” he said.

“Common Ground has stepped up to address many of the key issues facing Milwaukee, including the foreclosure crisis, and I look forward to continue working in partnership with them as a strong advocate for improving the quality of life for our citizens,” Alderman Murphy said.

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## Hero Awards/ADD ONE

“Common Ground has stepped up to address many of the key issues facing Milwaukee, including the foreclosure crisis, and I look forward to continue working in partnership with them as a strong advocate for improving the quality of life for our citizens,” Alderman Murphy said.

Ms. Scott said Alderman Murphy was recognized for “standing with Common Ground since the beginning of our foreclosure fight and working with Common Ground to secure \$33.8 million from five major banks (Bank of America, JP Morgan Chase, Deutsche Bank, US Bank and Wells Fargo).” A portion of that \$33.8 million is supporting Milwaukee Rising, a Common Ground housing revitalization initiative that is transforming foreclosed homes in city neighborhoods so that the properties can again become available for sale.

“Alderman Michael Murphy has been a strong ally of Common Ground and was chosen as one of the first recipients of the Common Ground Hero Awards because of his willingness to stand with Common Ground on addressing the foreclosure crisis,” said Toni Wagner of St. Catherine’s Catholic Parish, a Common Ground leader and Sherman Park resident who is also a constituent of Alderman Murphy’s.

Department of City Development staff members **Maria Prioletta**, **Jim Sayers**, and **Sam Leichtling** were also recognized with Hero Awards for their efforts to commit \$2 million of Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) funds to Milwaukee Rising, and for working to strategically implement the funds to create a positive impact in the Sherman Park neighborhood.