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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Report Thursday on new fire response technology

Fire department and Comptroller's Office to discuss study findings on system that uses smaller vehicles to respond; also – report about city inspections process

The Common Council's **Public Safety Committee** will tomorrow (**Thursday, May 31**) hear the results of a study looking into whether smaller fire department vehicles could feasibly be used as part of the city's arsenal in responding to calls for service.

Alderman Terry Witkowski, chair of the Public Safety Committee, said representatives of the Milwaukee Fire Department and the Comptroller's Office will discuss their findings during the committee meeting **tomorrow at 10 a.m. in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**

Late last year, Alderman Witkowski brought the fire equipment used on smaller vehicles to the attention of the Common Council and the MFD, and made an attempt to secure a system as part of the 2012 budget process. The budget amendment did not pass, but in the discussion before the Finance and Personnel Committee, the MFD and Comptroller's Office agreed to study whether the equipment would be beneficial for the city. The use of smaller trucks for non fire related calls was also studied, as 93% of the calls received are not smoke or fire related.

Typical fire trucks or "rigs" are very low miles-per-gallon (MPG) vehicles, getting one or two miles per gallon of gasoline, and are usually sent on most calls. The study also looked at the cost of using the half million dollar rigs for all calls, versus equipping and using smaller vehicles for that 93% of the calls. Alderman Witkowski said using smaller, better mileage vehicles could produce significant annual savings for the city.

On the topic of city inspections, the committee will hear from the Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS).

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Public Safety Committee /ADD ONE

The DNS report follows a committee hearing in March on the city inspections and permitting process. At that hearing, business owners shared information about their experiences with city inspectors and the inspection process.

Alderman Witkowski has said it is important for the Common Council to be monitoring the city's inspection and permitting process to make sure business owners are not being discouraged from opening and improving locations in Milwaukee.

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