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CHAIR:
Finance and Personnel Committee
Employes' Retirement System Annuity and Pension Board
Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board
Milwaukee Arts Board

MEMBER:
Steering and Rules Committee
Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee
Deferred Compensation Plan Board



Legislators think they know what's best for Milwaukee neighborhoods

**Statement from Alderman Michael J. Murphy
June 20, 2013**

The Republican-controlled state Legislature is once again meddling in the City of Milwaukee's affairs, and this time it affects properties owned in nearly every neighborhood in the city.

The intrusion I am referring to is a bill (AB 183/SB179) now moving through the Legislature that would eliminate the City of Milwaukee's landlord registration program – an incredibly successful initiative the city, residents and neighborhood associations use to resolve problems and hold landlords accountable when they have problem tenants or are negligent in maintaining a property. The bill has already passed the Assembly, has had a hearing in the Senate and could be voted out of the Senate committee any day now.

Of course the bill was drafted at the behest of absentee landlords who do NOT like to hear about problems at their properties and who prefer to make it as difficult as possible to reach them. The bottom line is that the quality of life in an entire neighborhood can be affected by just one or two problem properties, and the landlord must be held accountable when problems occur.

In my view, this bill is just another effort to stick it to Milwaukee at the expense of nearly every neighborhood in the city, and to benefit a select group of landlords.

I urge all city neighborhood associations and groups to take action and contact the members of the Senate Insurance and Housing Committee to ask them to support amending the bill to allow the city to maintain the landlord registration program. Please let them know how important the program is to the city and your neighborhood.

The committee members are:

Senator Frank Lasee (Chair) 608-266-3512
Sen.lasee@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Luther Olsen 608-266-0751
Sen.olsen@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Dale Schultz 608-266-0703
Sen.schultz@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Tim Cullen 608-266-2253
Sen.cullen@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Jon Erpenbach 608-266-6670
Sen.erpenbach@legis.wisconsin.gov