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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

May 10, 2015

Ald. Bob Donovan  
(414) 708-9417

## **COPS grant program announcement Monday morning**

*Alderman Donovan to join Rep. Sanfelippo and others*

Alderman Bob Donovan will join New Berlin state Rep. Joe Sanfelippo and others for a news conference tomorrow morning to announce a proposal that would bolster the state's police officer grant funding program.

The news conference will be at **8:30 a.m. Monday, May 11** at the **West Allis Police Satellite Station located at 6900 W. National Ave.** Also expected to participate: **West Allis Mayor Dan Devine**, Milwaukee Police Association President **Mike Crivello**, and a representative of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office.

Rep. Sanfelippo's bill, **LRB-4098**, would bolster the state's Law Enforcement Officer Grants program by increasing overall funding, expanding the list of eligible applicants to include county sheriff's departments and removing the minimum size requirement for eligible communities. Municipalities or counties that receive the grants would be required to use the money to hire additional law enforcement officers whose primary duties are conducting beat patrols. Because every community is different, the grants could also go toward employing specialized law enforcement officers who would focus on drug abuse or other localized issues.

**-More-**

## **COPS grant program proposal/ADD ONE**

The current grant program, administered by the state Department of Justice, awards annual grants to 10 eligible cities with populations of at least 25,000. Those 10 municipalities shared \$1.22 million in the 2013-14 budget. Under Rep. Sanfelippo's proposal, funding would be **increased by approximately \$14 million**.

Alderman Donovan, a member of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, for years has been a vocal proponent of finding ways of filling Milwaukee Police Department officer vacancies and of increasing police beat patrols. "This proposal is something I've advocated for when meeting with legislators in Madison," he said.

"It would be great to see a working partnership with members of the Legislature that could produce state legislation that would deliver additional officers to Milwaukee and other communities across the region and the state," Alderman Donovan said.

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