



November 11, 2015

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski  
(414) 286-2883

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **School bus proposal to be heard at Thursday's Public Safety Committee meeting**

Proposed legislation that would require school buses to deploy stop arms and flashing red lights when children are boarding or exiting will be heard **tomorrow (Thursday, November 12)** by the Common Council's **Public Safety Committee**, according to **Alderman Terry L. Witkowski**, who serves as chair of the committee.

State law allows individual municipalities to determine whether bus drivers are required to deploy stop arms and flashing red lights when children are boarding or exiting buses. For decades, the City of Milwaukee has adhered to the practice of requiring children to wait until the bus has pulled away to cross the street, in order to ensure they have a clear view of the road. Buses do not deploy stop arms and red lights, and other motorists are not required by law to stop and wait until the bus pulls away. Also, Milwaukee Public Schools plans bus stops so children do not have to cross an arterial street – even though the bus may stop on an arterial.

“We have no documented problems with the current ordinance, yet Common Ground is pushing for the change, but indicating that children will not cross under the stop arm,” Alderman Witkowski said. “They are asking Milwaukee’s school buses to stop 89,000 times per school day with the stop arm down and red lights flashing, causing traffic to stop, even though no children are crossing.”

The current ordinance in Milwaukee works, while communities across the U.S. with stop arm activation requirements are searching for a better way because of vehicles not stopping, the alderman said. “It makes no sense to attempt to stop traffic if the child is not going to attempt to get across the street in the first place,” he said, adding that MPS and the Milwaukee Safety Commission “report no current documented problems.”

**What: Public Safety Committee meeting**

**When: Thursday, November 12 at 9 a.m.**

**Where: Room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**