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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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November 13, 2017

**Ald. Terry Witkowski**

(414) 731-0472

**Ald. Ashanti Hamilton**

(414) 286-3272

## **First meeting is tonight for Milwaukee Safety and Civic Commission**

The **Safety and Civic Commission**, a key city body charged with recommending city-wide measures to improve overall safety and wellbeing, will hold its **first meeting** tonight at City Hall.

The Commission will meet at **6 p.m.** tonight (**Monday, November 13**) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., according to **Alderman Terry L. Witkowski**, who authored the successful legislation approved in April by the full Common Council to re-create the former **Safety Commission** as the **Safety and Civic Commission**, a panel composed of three members appointed by the Mayor and 15 members appointed by Council members (one per aldermanic district).

Alderman Witkowski said tonight's inaugural meeting of the Commission will include discussion of bylaws and an open records presentation by City Clerk Jim Owczarski. "Tonight's first meeting will include important information and some on-boarding, but will especially offer a chance for members to become better acquainted with one another," he said.

Alderman Witkowski said the goal of the Safety and Civic Commission will be to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee by improving safety and addressing citywide problems through effective, targeted public education and public information.

**-More-**

## **New Commission/ADD ONE**

**Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton** has said he believes the Safety and Civic Commission can be an inclusive and proactive body that works to make everyday life in Milwaukee better. “The Commission is very diverse and I am hopeful that members will be making some important and impactful recommendations for our city,” he said.

The ordinance governing the new Commission further provides for up to 10 advisors to staff/assist it, support staff housed in the Police Department, bylaw creation power, and a highway safety coordinator appointed by the Mayor.

Issues the new Commission may deal with include traffic safety for motor vehicles, pedestrians, and bicycles, reducing the demand for drugs, raising educational achievement, raising school attendance and graduation rates, addressing parenting, and reducing littering.