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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 23, 2017

Ald. Tony Zielinski  
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## **Ald. Zielinski: Mayor diverts additional funding for streetcar that could go to more cops**

*City Hall news conference set for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday*

**Alderman Tony Zielinski** has found additional city funding in the 2018 proposed budget that Mayor Barrett has quietly directed to be used to fund streetcar operations – badly needed funding that the alderman said could instead be used to hire police officers to help bolster public safety.

Alderman Zielinski, who has scheduled a **news conference for 8:30 a.m. Tuesday (October 24)** in the **third floor Council Chamber anteroom** at City Hall to discuss the matter, said the total amount of city budget funding for the streetcar that is being kept quiet by the mayor now totals more than \$500,000.

“Just weeks ago we uncovered \$208,000 for two streetcar management positions that the mayor siphoned off, and now we find there’s another \$315,000 going to the streetcar instead of being used for police or fire personnel or property tax relief,” he said.

Alderman Zielinski said the \$315,000 is a “Local Transit” line in the Parking Fund 2018 Budget and is the local match for the Federal Transit Administration grant for the streetcar.

“The mayor deliberately chose to use city funds for this purpose,” the alderman said. “It’s time for Mayor Barrett to come clean with the public about where else he’s directing city funds for the streetcar and what that total amount comes to.”

**-More-**

## **Streetcar funding/ADD ONE**

Alderman Zielinski sponsored an amendment (to the mayor's proposed 2018 executive budget) that would take the \$208,000 for two streetcar management positions and instead direct that money to pay for police officers. "The \$208,000 funding would allow us to pay for 2.5 police officers to help keep our citizens safe," he said.

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