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MICHAEL J. MURPHY
ALDERMAN, 10TH DISTRICT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Light the Hoan to recognize International Overdose Awareness Day

In partnership with the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force (CCHOCTF), the Hoan Bridge will be lit purple tonight in honor of International Overdose Awareness Day, according to **Alderman Michael J. Murphy**, who serves as co-chair of the task force.

The purple illumination of the Hoan Bridge will help Milwaukee remember the lives lost in the city and county, and throughout the world, to drug overdose.

“This is a powerful and moving way to honor and remember those we have lost to addiction, and on behalf of the City-County Heroin, Opioid, and Cocaine Task Force, I want to express our deep appreciation to those at Light The Hoan who are making it possible,” Alderman Murphy said.

Alderman Murphy serves as co-chair of the task force alongside Mike Lappen from the Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Division.

Light The Hoan has helped Milwaukee recognize all manner of events, achievements and circumstances with brilliant controlled lighting attached to the Hoan Bridge. Just a few days ago, the bridge was lit up in stars and stripes to welcome home a group of World War II, Korea and Vietnam veterans returning home from a Stars and Stripes Honor Flight trip to Washington, D.C.

Light The Hoan describes itself as “a collective of local business and civic leaders who have joined forces to illuminate the Daniel Hoan Memorial Bridge. Light The Hoan is a symbol of pride and unity for the city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.”

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Alderman Murphy, who sponsored legislation creating the city’s anti-overdose initiative, said he is personally grateful for the recognition and partnership provided by Light The Hoan. “Light The Hoan recognizes the damage and pain that opioid addiction and overdose deaths have brought to our city and region, and they value the efforts to find solutions and more effective means of prevention. That is deeply meaningful and sums up what they are truly about,” he said.

The CCHOCTF has worked to make recommendations that ensure the long-term health and safety of City and County residents by reducing fatal and nonfatal overdose from misuse of opioids, heroin, and cocaine through data-driven public health prevention approaches. The CCHOCTF represents multiple sectors from city, county, and state agencies and those with lived experiences of substance abuse.

Those interested can visit <https://city.milwaukee.gov/Health/Services-and-Programs/Substance-Abuse-and-Injury-Prevention> for more information on overdose prevention, and to view the final report of the CCHOCTF.

