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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert G. Donovan
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City Gets Restraining Order In Action Against Gang-Controlled House

*Three Sons Barred From Coming Near House; Court Hearing on City Nuisance
Action to Resume Next Week*

Neighbors living near a south side house where a drive-by shooting in December left two gang members wounded were given a reprieve today when a judge issued a temporary restraining order barring three inhabitants from coming within a four-block radius of the residence, Ald. Robert G. Donovan said.

The order, signed by Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Charles F. Kahn, Jr., follows a civil court hearing held Thursday in the city's lawsuit filed January 16 which asks the court to declare the house at 2076 S. 35th St., owned by Gabriel Fuentes and Alicia Villafuerte, a public nuisance. The hearing was adjourned and additional evidence will be presented when it resumes Wednesday, January 30 in Judge Kahn's court.

Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council's Public Safety Committee, said the restraining order affects three male siblings – all alleged members of a violent criminal gang. "Although we still have some work to do to have the house declared a public nuisance – which I believe it very clearly is – I want to commend our City Attorney's Office, the DA's office, Milwaukee Police Department and the Community Prosecution Unit for their excellent work that has convinced a judge to bar these hoodlums from the house," he said.

"It's a clear victory for the neighborhood, which had been terrorized by gang activity and violent gang members for far too long," said Ald. Donovan.

-More-

Restraining Order For Gang Members/ADD ONE

The move to take over the house was initiated following an investigation by Milwaukee police and the CPU's Grant Huebner, an assistant district attorney handling cases on the city's near south side. The investigation turned up several illegal activities including evidence of narcotics distribution, illegal firearms and acts of violence, Ald. Donovan said.

Records show a drive-by shooting at the house on December 16 targeted the three male sibling gang members living there. Minutes after that shooting, a related, retaliatory drive-by shooting occurred blocks away in the 1900 block of S. 28th St., he said.

"In a matter of minutes this neighborhood was transformed into something out of a movie about the 'Wild West,'" said Vince Bobot, the assistant city attorney who directs the city's CPU efforts. "It's a miracle no one was killed."

The community prosecutor program, initiated in 2000 with one community prosecutor, has evolved into one of the Milwaukee's most effective tools for fighting gangs, drugs, prostitution, illegal firearms, loud noise, and other criminal and nuisance activities. There are now ten, six from the district attorney's office and four assistant city attorneys, with eight stationed in satellite offices in six Milwaukee police district stations and community based organizations.

Ald. Donovan has said the CPU program is being threatened by cuts at the federal and state levels, and he's urging public support to help continue the program and to expand it if possible.