
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Bob Donovan
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New Security Initiative Gives Postal Carriers Safe Havens

*Alderman Donovan Will Make His Home First Official "Operation Safe Haven" Location;
Joint News Conference Set for Monday*

Thousands of Milwaukee homes and businesses could some day be declared safe refuges as part of **Operation Safe Haven**, a first-of-its-kind grassroots security initiative meant to increase safety for postal carriers who are the victims of physical or credible verbal assaults during their rounds.

Ald. Bob Donovan is helping launch Operation Safe Haven (OSH) as a three-month pilot program on the near south side in cooperation with inspectors from the **U.S. Postal Inspection Service (USPIS)**, and he has declared his home as the city's first official OSH location. "We have areas and neighborhoods in this city that have mail delivery interrupted, or delayed until the area is deemed safe, because of shots fired, and other incidents of violent crime and disorder," he said. "What better way to address that than to empower neighborhood residents who are willing to keep their homes and businesses available as safe havens for their postal carriers."

The initiative will be discussed during a launch news conference at 11 a.m. on Monday, October 6, 2008 in front of Alderman Donovan's home, located at 1645 S. 28th St. Tom Brady, field inspector in charge from the Chicago division of the USPIS, Ed Graczyk (pronounced gra-check), USPS customer service operations manager for the city of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee Police Capt. Donald Gaglione of the 6th District will join the alderman at the news conference.

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Operation Safe Haven/ADD ONE

Operation Safe Haven is being piloted in the same area where Operation Impact – a unique public-private public safety effort also created with Alderman Donovan’s efforts – is now underway. The area is bounded by W. Pierce St. on the north, W. Lincoln Ave. on the south, S. 16th Street/S. Cesar Chavez Dr. on the east and S. 38th St. on the west – located entirely within the MPD’s 6th Police District.

To participate in OSH a resident and/or business owner must be willing to keep their home or business available as a safe haven during the normal core mail delivery time period for their block and neighborhood (six days each week), and each OSH location would also post a sticker outside the main door identifying it as an OSH refuge, according to Alderman Donovan.

Ed Graczyk of the USPS said postal carriers and inspectors have a long and extensive track record of working closely with Milwaukee police, and it is hoped OSH will also help raise public awareness of the public safety issues that can, at times, affect the usually smooth delivery of the mail. “The Postal Service is an integral part of the community, making it a natural fit for us to work with local programming like Operation Impact and the Milwaukee Police Department community policing programs,” Graczyk said, adding: “Hopefully, this will benefit not only the carriers, but the community as a whole by raising awareness and generating participation to help make our streets safer.”

During an informal organizational neighborhood meeting earlier this week, several eager residents and business owners stepped forward and said they would gladly make their locations available as safe havens, said Alderman Donovan, chair of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee.

“I can’t ask my constituents to do something that I’m not willing to do, so I wanted to have my home be the first one,” the alderman said. “But I’m thrilled with the response so far from ordinary people, and I’m hoping we can eventually have two or three Operation Safe Haven locations on each and every block in this city.”