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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Michael Murphy
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State Senate Unanimously Approves Housing Trust Fund Bill

Ald. Michael Murphy Touts Measure's Potential Benefits for Milwaukee, Praises Sponsors

The state Senate gave a rare unanimous thumbs-up this week to a measure (**Senate Bill 426**) that could provide millions of dollars to Milwaukee's Housing Trust Fund to be used for affordable housing and repairs to existing housing units, Ald. Michael J. Murphy said today.

Senate Bill 426, sponsored by Milwaukee Sen. Spencer Cogg, and its companion Assembly Bill 752, sponsored by city Rep. Tamara Grigsby, seek to give municipalities the authority to adopt a resolution that will allow them to extend the life of a tax incremental district (TID) for one year after all TID costs have been paid, and to apply the continuing tax increments to affordable housing (75%), and the remainder (25%) to otherwise improve the quality of existing housing stock. The resolution would enable a community to evaluate whether to extend each TID prior to closing.

With 20 Milwaukee TIDs scheduled to close over the next 10 years, if the measure is also approved by the state Assembly it's possible that during the next 10 years Milwaukee could reap as much as \$9 million for creating additional affordable housing and as much as \$3 million for repairs to existing housing, Ald. Murphy said. "We strongly urge the Assembly to take up AB 752 and approve it before the end of the session," he said.

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Housing Trust Fund Bill/ADD ONE

“The legislation would truly open up a critically important funding stream for creating more affordable housing in Milwaukee, and I want to thank and recognize Senator Coggs and Representative Grigsby for their hard work and diligence in sponsoring and guiding this important legislation forward at the State Capitol,” said Ald. Murphy, chair of the city’s Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board.

The city’s Intergovernmental Relations Division has been working to garner support in the Assembly for AB 752, the alderman said. “We are optimistic that the Assembly will also give this legislation overwhelming support, in part because once a TIF is successfully closed-out, extending its life for one year and allocating the increments to affordable housing is financially feasible without causing general fund and debt budget impacts. It just makes good fiscal sense,” he said.

Last month the Common Council voted overwhelmingly to allocate \$1.4 million for five recommended Housing Trust Fund projects that will create 142 units of affordable housing for Milwaukee residents. The five projects, ranging from \$750,000 to \$68,000, are leveraging what amounts to an overall investment of more than \$26.7 million, Ald. Murphy said.

“We are trying to find funding where appropriate because these projects have a tremendous capacity to bring substantial positive economic impact to the City of Milwaukee in terms of building trade jobs that will be created, and obviously to low-income residents and the homeless who will directly benefit, including many families and children,” he said.