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Common Council Approves First Round Of Housing Trust Fund Grants, Funding For More Officers In MPS Schools

The Common Council today approved a first round of five Housing Trust Fund projects that will create 142 units of affordable housing for Milwaukee residents.

During its regular meeting this morning at City Hall, the Council members present voted unanimously to approve the recommendation of the Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Advisory Board to allocate \$1.4 million for the five projects, ranging in grants from \$68,000 to \$750,000.

Ald. Michael J. Murphy, chair of the trust fund advisory board, has said the trust fund allocations will leverage what amounts to an overall investment of more than \$26.7 million, and will help bolster the creation of building trade jobs and critical housing for low-income residents and the homeless, including many families and children.

Originally, 21 proposals requesting a total of more than \$5.6 million in HTF funds were received. If fully funded, all 21 projects would have leveraged more than \$85 million. Of the 142 housing units reflected in the five projects, 24 will be rehab housing and 118 will be new housing. The projects approved by the Council today include:

- \$750,000 – Mercy Housing Lakefront (housing for homeless).
- \$264,000 – St. Catherine’s Residence (affordable rental housing).
- \$200,000 – United Methodist Children’s Services (affordable rental housing).
- \$125,000 – Heartland Housing/Guest House (affordable rental housing).
- \$68,000 – Milwaukee Christian Center (homeownership for low-income).

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Council Takes Action Today/ADD ONE

In other action today, the Council:

- Approved legislation making permanent a program that allows the Milwaukee Police Department to assign school resource officers to Bradley Tech, Hamilton, Pulaski, Vincent and Custer High Schools to help bolster safety inside and outside the school buildings (a successful pilot program was first in place at Bradley Tech and Custer). The agreement between the city and Milwaukee Public Schools – passed as part of the 2008 city budget – requires each to pay \$375,000 to operate the program during the 2008-2009 school year.
- Approved a Public Safety Committee recommendation requiring Fire and Police Commission members to attend training related to the missions of the Fire and Police Departments. The training allows up close and hands-on experiences that enable commissioners to learn what police officers and firefighters contend with on a daily basis.
- Approved a recommendation from the Public Safety Committee to allow neighborhood electric vehicles to be operated on certain city streets, and urging the city to use and purchase the vehicles to the greatest extent practicable.
- Approved a recommendation from the Public Works Committee to engage in water service discussions with the Village of Elm Grove.
- Approved a Licenses Committee recommendation to revoke the tavern license of Montal's Lounge, 2525 N. Holton St., located in the 6th District. The troubled nightspot had numerous reports of unruly patrons, noise, public urination, traffic issues and was the scene of a fatal shooting last fall.
- Approved a Licenses Committee recommendation not to renew the tavern license of Outer Limits, 1535 W. Becher St., in the 12th District. Police investigations at the tavern turned up drugs, improperly inventoried/recorded stores of alcohol and other problems.