



February 21, 2006

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
(414) 286-2994

MEDIA ADVISORY

Public Input Wanted On Anti-Gang Loitering Ordinance

Here's your chance to speak out on the proposed anti-gang loitering ordinance, which is being considered by the Milwaukee Common Council.

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. is inviting community residents, especially young people, to speak out on the proposed ordinance at a meeting on the south side. **The informational meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, 2006 in the auditorium of South Division High School, 1515 W. Lapham Blvd.** The primary sponsor of the anti-gang loitering ordinance, Ald. Tony Zielinski, has been invited to attend. Media coverage is encouraged.

The ordinance would allow police to ticket people who loiter in what is called a "menacing" fashion in specific areas designated by the police chief as areas plagued by gang activity.

Ald. McGee says he's concerned the law could be used to harass people based on stereotypes and racial profiling and he is anxious to hear comments from the public. Supporters say it's another tool to deal with groups of young people who hang out on streets and intimidate residents.

The meeting will include a presentation by community leaders on how young people can better interact with police officers.

The council's Public Safety Committee recently voted 3-1 in favor of the anti-gang loitering ordinance, with Ald. McGee casting the lone "no" vote. The measure is scheduled to go to the full council February 28th at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

WHAT: ANTI-GANG LOITERING INFORMATIONAL MEETING

WHEN: Thursday, February 23, 2006, 6:00 p.m.

WHERE: South Division High School auditorium, 1515 W. Lapham Blvd.

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