Dear 4th District Residents:

I have received a great deal of positive feedback regarding the traffic calming ordinance that I sponsored and the Common Council enthusiastically approved on December 12, 2006. This ordinance will empower residents to improve neighborhood quality of life and public safety that has been diminished by speeding traffic on residential streets.

The traffic calming ordinance creates a process for neighborhood residents to ask the city to construct a device—such as a mini-roundabout or a “speed hump”—to reduce vehicle speeds on residential streets and to improve pedestrian safety. Other traffic calming devices include speed tables, curb bump-outs, and traffic circles and roundabouts at intersections. All of these installations will be carefully designed to ensure the safe movement of emergency vehicles and snow plows.

Under the ordinance, neighborhood residents can petition the city to install traffic calming measures on residential streets. The city would review each request, determine the best type of traffic calming measure and calculate the cost of the installation. A public hearing would be held before the Council’s Public Works Committee, and if approved, 90% of the cost of the project would be divided among adjoining property owners as a special assessment (similar to the process the city uses for street, sidewalk and alley replacement). Special assessments can be paid in a lump sum or over a period of years with interest as part of the property tax bill.

A typical speed hump will cost about $3,000, and other traffic calming devices will cost slightly more.

If you and your neighbors are interested in looking into some type of traffic calming device, please call Dave Schlabowske at 286-3144 or by email at dschl@mpw.net.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Bauman
Alderman, 4th District
Traffic Calming Devices - Roundabouts

Typical roundabout installation in the Cambridge Woods neighborhood. At right, traffic calming devices in Chicago neighborhoods.