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MEDIA ADVISORY

Common Council To Take Up Anti-Gang Loitering Ordinance, Zoning Change For Group Homes And Asset Forfeiture Proposal

After an invocation by Archbishop Timothy Dolan and a presentation by Tim Sheehy of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, the Milwaukee Common Council tomorrow will launch into debate and discussion of several key city issues, including an anti-gang loitering proposal.

The meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (**Tuesday, February 28, 2006**) at **9:00 a.m.** in the Common Council chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. **Media coverage is invited.**

Aldermen will consider a recommendation from the Public Safety Committee regarding an anti-gang loitering ordinance meant to address groups of people who block streets and intimidate residents. If passed in its current form, the ordinance would allow police to ticket and disperse people who loiter in a menacing fashion in specific areas designated by the police chief as plagued by criminal gang activity. Under the proposal, groups that include at least one known gang member would be especially scrutinized.

Another major issue facing the council tomorrow is a recommendation from the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee regarding a proposal to repeal a part of the city's zoning code that requires neighborhood group homes for disabled persons to be at least 2,500 feet apart. Questions have been raised about the legality of the "2,500-foot rule," and the proposed ordinance change is being recommended by the City Attorney's Office.

The Council will also consider a Public Safety Committee recommendation regarding how the police department should use federal asset forfeiture money.

In other business tomorrow, the council:

- * Will consider the proposed conversion of Wells and State streets from one-way to two-way traffic on the sections from N. 6th St. to the freeway.
- * Will vote on a resolution to designate the 153-year-old James Brown Double House at 1122 N. Astor St. as an historic structure.