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Ald. Michael S. D'Amato  
(414) 286-2221

## Ald. D'Amato Calls On CRG To Come Clean On PabstCity Spending

*Review Shows Group Not Forthcoming On Who Paid Them To Oppose Project*

Today Ald. Michael S. D'Amato called on Citizens for Responsible Government (CRG) to fully disclose to Milwaukee residents the source of funding for their lobbying effort to oppose the failed PabstCity project last year.

The request by Ald. D'Amato, who chairs the Milwaukee Common Council's Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development and Judiciary & Legislation committees, comes after a report in today's *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* showing CRG and others who opposed the PabstCity project reported spending less than \$500 to influence city officials on the project. The hundreds of dollars reported by CRG and PabstCity opponents under the city's new lobbyist registration ordinance was dwarfed when compared to the reported \$20,000 spent by WisPark, the project's developer.

In the newspaper story, CRG officials said that as "a citizen's group" they believe CRG is not required to disclose information under the lobbyist registration ordinance.

Ald. D'Amato strongly disagrees. "It may be a gray area in terms of the legal requirement to report information under the ordinance, but certainly a group calling itself Citizens for Responsible Government should be willing to be open with the public about who's paying them to influence city policy," said Ald. D'Amato.

**-More-**

## **Ald. D'Amato Calls On CRG To Come Clean /ADD ONE**

The PabstCity development project was killed in July 2005 when the Common Council voted against proceeding with city funding for it. The massive entertainment, housing and retail development was seeking more than \$40 million in city tax incremental financing (or TIF) money. Opponents – among them Ald. D'Amato – said the development lacked long-term sustainability, was too reliant on public financing (especially for parking facilities) and was leveraged too heavily on entertainment venues and attractions.

The public should be wary of “citizen’s groups” such as CRG, according to Ald. D'Amato. “These so-called ‘citizen’s groups’ are flying below the radar and are able to bypass local regulations that are meant to make government more transparent,” said the alderman. “To me, a ‘citizen’s group’ that’s not willing to fully comply with the spirit of a public disclosure ordinance is one that loses all credibility with the very public they claim to represent.”

The lobbyist registration ordinance was approved by the Council in December 2004 and created a system for the registration and regulation of lobbyists. It requires lobbyists to register and disclose information about whom they represent and how much time and money they spend on their contacts with Common Council members, the Mayor, and other city officials.