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FOR INFORMATION CALL

May 3, 2006

Ald. Jim Bohl
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**News Conference Regarding New City Law
Closing Drug Paraphernalia Loophole**
*Ald. Jim Bohl and Police Chief Nannette Hegerty to discuss ban on
Stores & Gas Stations Selling Paraphernalia*

A new law has gone into effect in the City of Milwaukee that allows police to keep items used as drug paraphernalia out of neighborhood stores, gas stations, alcohol and tobacco outlets and convenience stores. Ald. Jim Bohl was chief sponsor of the city legislation, which is authorized by a change in state law that was signed recently by Governor Jim Doyle.

The city can now prohibit the possession, manufacture or delivery of drug paraphernalia by persons 17 years of age and older. The previous state statute created a loophole because it authorized the enactment and enforcement of municipal ordinances prohibiting the possession, manufacture, or delivery of drug paraphernalia by persons under 17 years of age – but not adults.

Ald. Bohl and Police Chief Nannette Hegerty will discuss the new law and warn merchants that it will be enforced at a news conference at 1 p.m. on Thursday, May 4, 2006 in the rotunda of Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Media coverage is invited.

Ald. Bohl said the new law will help the city protect neighborhoods by keeping drug paraphernalia and items such as “Charboys,” copper scouring pads which are used to filter crack and “shooters” – small glass tubes used to smoke crack cocaine and/or crystal meth – out of the accessible hands of the public.

(more)

Drug Paraphernalia News Conference/ADD ONE

“Under the previous law, we were prevented from barring stores from selling these items,” said Ald. Bohl, noting that anecdotal evidence suggests some stores and gas stations open during late-night hours sell large numbers of paraphernalia items to late-night customers.

“This anti-drug paraphernalia legislation will provide the city with the necessary tools to prevent stores from selling the drug-related items which drive crime, violence and despair in so many of our neighborhoods,” he said.

-30-