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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Robert G. Donovan
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Offenders Will Clean Up Alleys, Remove Brush As Part Of “Operation Alley Cat”

*News Conference on Monday Will Highlight Unique Program That Gives Offenders
Opportunity to Spruce Up While Putting in Community Service Hours*

A coordinated program that allows offenders a chance to fulfill community service requirements by helping to clean up alleys, remove brush and place address numbers on alley-abutting garages will be featured during a news conference on Monday, Ald. Robert G. Donovan said.

The “Operation Alley Cat” program – a partnership between the City of Milwaukee, Community Partners and the state Department of Corrections – will be outlined during the news conference, scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday (April 18, 2005) at W. Mitchell St. and S. Muskego Ave. in the 8th Aldermanic District. Participants will include Ald. Donovan and representatives of the state DOC and Community Partners. Media coverage is invited.

Ald. Donovan, known for his neighborhood “walk-throughs” each week in the district to identify potential neighborhood problems and to report sanitation issues and potential public health problems, said Operation Alley Cat is a “win-win” for the community and the offenders. “The initiative allows offenders who need to perform community service with the opportunity to give something back to the community by cleaning up and beautifying our neighborhoods,” said Ald. Donovan, chair of the Common Council’s Public Safety Committee.

“The community obviously benefits from the cleanup work by an improved environment and enhanced public safety by the added garage address numbers – something that can save lives when police officers or firefighters are in an alley trying to locate a residence where there’s an emergency,” said Ald. Donovan.

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Operation Alley Cat/ADD ONE

Joe Kabecek of Community Partners, who is helping to coordinate the program, said the offenders who are referred to the program are adults who have been cleared by their parole agents to take part in the program. “Mostly these offenders are people who want to do this work, who want to satisfy their service requirement by giving back to the community they’ve harmed in some way,” Kabecek said.

Mary Jane Anttila, assistant regional chief for the DOC, said: “The Department of Corrections appreciates this opportunity to allow our offenders to give back to the community as part of the department’s efforts at restorative justice.”