
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

November 2, 2006

Ald. Robert G. Donovan
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Taking Back The Neighborhood – One Or Two Houses At A Time

*Cooperative Efforts of City Departments Lead to Closures of Two Problem
Houses on Same Block; Ald. Donovan to Hold News Conference Tomorrow*

For years neighbors knew the two houses on S. 24th St. as trouble spots that added noise and disorder instead of peace and quiet.

A steady mix of complaints about the two houses from neighbors detailing everything from excessive noise, loud music, drug sales, threatening behavior, and physical assault recently escalated to battery, intimidation and robbery, catching the attention of Ald. Bob Donovan, and tomorrow he'll hold a news conference to announce they've been officially shut down by the City of Milwaukee.

“The houses have been ordered vacated and they will be boarded up,” said Ald. Donovan. “This action has been in the works for some time and I believe it signals a tremendous victory for the neighborhood.”

The news conference will be held at 2:30 p.m. tomorrow (Friday, November 3, 2006) in front of 1558 S. 24th St. Ald. Donovan will be joined at the news conference by representatives from the Milwaukee Police Department, the City Attorney's Office, the District Attorney's Office, and several happy neighbors. Media coverage is encouraged.

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City Shuts Down Problem Houses /ADD ONE

After drug and criminal investigations involving the houses, the City Attorney's office and the Community Prosecution Team of the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office worked closely with the Milwaukee Police Department and other city departments and filed a nuisance property action against both 1558 S. 24th St. and 1552 S. 24th St. The action led to the placarding of the exteriors with "vacate premises" orders, followed by city crews boarding up the windows and doors.

A review of city records shows the houses have harbored hazardous conditions for occupants, and city inspectors have tallied 69 code violations and issued seven official orders to remedy the problems. Ald. Donovan said several occupants of the properties have extensive police records. "These are some very bad actors we're talking about, not exactly a house full of altar boys," he said.

Ald. Donovan said the action shows that city departments and the District Attorney's Community Prosecution Team can work well in a cooperative manner to "eradicate nuisance problems that disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of a neighborhood and threaten the public safety and health" of residents.

"It shows we have the tools to bring order back so residents can live in peace without disorder and havoc ruling the day," he said.

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