
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

August 29, 2007

Ald. Michael J. Murphy
(414) 286-3763

Councilman Seeks Extension For Summer Crime Fighting Initiative

*Ald. Michael Murphy Says City Could Benefit From Additional Weeks of
Successful MPD Neighborhood Safety Initiative*

With public safety at the top of the priority list for city elected officials, Ald. Michael J. Murphy says it just makes sense to continue the successful Neighborhood Safety Initiative for several more weeks, if funding can be secured.

And, with just released data showing roughly one in four Milwaukeeans living below the poverty line, Ald. Murphy said he knows the strain for resources may make extending the crime fighting initiative a difficult task. One estimate puts a price tag of more than \$500,000 on extending the initiative for one month.

“I’m working cooperatively with the Mayor and the chair of the Public Safety Committee (Ald. Bob Donovan) to try to identify additional city resources that could be used to continue the initiative, but clearly it’s a very expensive endeavor, and we’re contacting Governor Doyle and state legislators to see if we can get some help from the state,” said Ald. Murphy, chair of the Council’s Finance and Personnel Committee.

The Neighborhood Safety Initiative – launched in May and set to expire on September 8 – is a proactive directed patrol initiative focused in specific areas of the city in which incidents of homicides, non-fatal shootings, armed robberies, gun-related offenses, recovered firearms, search warrants, and “shots fired” calls are high.

-More-

Safety Initiative Extension Sought/ADD ONE

Mayor Tom Barrett said he will be continuing to work with Ald. Murphy, the other aldermen and partners at the state level to fund the initiative. “The Neighborhood Safety Initiative has proven to be a critical, successful strategy in the fight against crime and violence,” he said.

“As a result of this groundbreaking initiative, both homicides and non-fatal shootings in Milwaukee are down and nearly 2,000 guns have been taken off the streets this year,” Mayor Barrett said.

According to Milwaukee police, the initiative has sought to reduce violent crime, to increase citizen safety, to reduce calls for service, and to provide a visible police presence. Assigned officers are also proactively investigating suspicious activities, and enforcing existing firearms, drug, and traffic laws. Quality of life and nuisance issues are also being addressed, with occasional involvement by other departments and agencies, including the Department of Neighborhood Services, the City Attorney’s Office, and the Community Prosecution Unit.

The effort has paid off, with MPD reporting thousands of citizen contacts that have netted drugs, guns, and led to thousands of arrests and citations. Feedback from residents in affected neighborhoods has been overwhelmingly positive, according to Ald. Bob Donovan.

“The use of beat patrols in neighborhoods and uniformed officers proactively investigating quality of life infractions and suspicious activity has resulted in less violence and disorder in many neighborhoods, and clearly this is an effort that I believe should be continued as long as possible and expanded upon ” he said.