
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 28, 2006

Ald. Terry Witkowski
414-731-0472

MEDIA ADVISORY

Should Police Officers Be Directing Traffic For Summerfest?

As Milwaukee's premier summer festival prepares to open for its 2006 run, major pressure is brought to bear on the manpower and resources of the Milwaukee Police Department. Huge crowds will be descending on Maier Festival Park, the lakefront and other events during the city's busiest outdoor festival period. **Ald. Terry L. Witkowski**, a proponent of creating the Community Service Officer (CSO) position for the city, **will hold a news conference today at 2 p.m. at O'Donnell Park (overlooking the intersection of E. Michigan St. and N. Lincoln Memorial Dr.)** to discuss the position, which will be discussed Thursday, June 29, 2006, during a meeting of the Common Council's Steering & Rules Committee at City Hall (room 301-B) at 1:30 p.m. **Media coverage is encouraged.**

The final report of the Community Services Staffing Task Force, chaired by Ald. Witkowski, calls on the Common Council to pass enabling legislation to create the CSO position. The CSO would be a civilian position in the police department that responds to non-emergency calls for service, traffic control, traffic incidents and other matters not requiring an armed sworn officer. Sworn officers would then be allowed to focus almost exclusively on handling violent crime incidents and investigations involving homicides, armed robberies, shots fired, armed standoffs, suspected prowlers, sexual assaults and other incidents.

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