

**Alder Report
Larry Palm, District 15
Eken Park Gazette**

City Budget

Perhaps no single piece of business before the City Council is as important as adopting the 2008 Operating and Capital budgets. As I have stated previously, the decisions we make as part of the budget impact all aspects of our city. The City's continued dependence on property taxes significantly affects our ability to expand City services while trying to keep the tax increases to a minimum.

The Mayor's proposed budget provides for several ideas that residents suggested, especially requests surrounding public safety. The many who attended the Northside Police Listening Session sent a strong message. Therefore, the Mayor's budget would include funds to:

- Provide for 30 new police officers, as well as detectives and other safety initiatives, to match our continued growth;
- Add a separate North District Community Policing Team to exclusively serve Eken Park and other Northside neighborhoods;
- Increase the number of building inspectors who follow up on residents' concerns about the quality and condition of area buildings; and
- Maintain current bus service without any increase in fares.

During the middle of November, the Common Council will be discussing the budget. I encourage you to review the proposed City budget at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/comp/budgetindex.htm>. More importantly, I encourage you to contact me with any comments, concerns or questions. Through resident input, I believe our City budget and services can reflect the priorities of our community.

Chronic Nuisance Abatement

Recently, the Common Council passed the Chronic Nuisance Abatement Ordinance, which allows Madison Police or Building Inspection, in cooperation with the City Attorney's Office, to follow up with building owners whose properties received more than three complaints over a three-month period.

While the potential use of this ordinance is small, I believe it has a larger psychological benefit for the community. The eastern side of Eken Park has many rental housing buildings whose landlords could be prosecuted under the ordinance if their properties have too many Police or Building Inspection contacts. I encourage you to contact the Police or Building Inspection when you see illegal activities or compromised buildings. City staff continues to review these reports for trends so they know where to direct their efforts.

As always, I represent you on the Common Council. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know at 692.8416 or lpalm@cityofmadison.com. I will also continue to post information to the District 15 website at <http://www.cityofmadison.com/council/district15/>.