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**Milwaukee Public Library Board Committee to Consider  
East Library Redevelopment Proposals**

MILWAUKEE---The Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees' Building and Development Committee will consider three proposals for the redevelopment of the East Library property on Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the East Library.

In July of this year, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett challenged the development community to help the City reinvent Milwaukee Public Library's East Library as part of the vibrant East Side community.

The Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) and the Department of City Development issued a Request for Proposal for developers to acquire the current East Library site and redevelop it with a mixed-use building which would house a 21<sup>st</sup> century library on the ground floor and a secondary use above it to serve the community. Conceptual proposals were sought and three Wisconsin developers responded: Stone House, Gorman & Company, and HSI Properties. All proposals include housing to complement the library.

"This is a valuable property in a unique part of our community," said Mayor Barrett. "Our goal is to add an asset to this neighborhood with both a new library and additional uses that make sense for this area."

Paula Kiely, MPL Library Director agrees, and identifies the East Library "as the perfect opportunity to showcase a public-private approach to replacing an obsolete building with a modern structure that serves MPL and the East Side neighborhoods and business community."

Ald. Nik Kovac, who represents the East Side and serves as a trustee on the MPL Board of Trustees, has been very involved in planning for a new East Library. "This new development will add to the economic development of the business district and bring a great center for learning to the neighborhood," said Ald. Kovac. "These new proposals are the result of community meetings and feedback that was shared with the developers."

MPL's East Library is located at 1910 E. North Avenue. This one-story, 13,800 square foot building opened for business in 1968 and still has the original interior design, lighting and heating, ventilation and cooling systems 43 years later. In 2010, more than 140,000 people

(MORE)

visited East Library to use 18 public computers, check out books, DVDs, CDs, and use the community meeting room.

An innovative new Milwaukee Public Library Villard Square branch opened on October 15<sup>th</sup> at the corner of N. 35th St. and W. Villard Ave. This mixed-use model features a library on the ground floor with approximately 13,000 square feet of space, with three levels of apartments above it. The apartments are being marketed as “grandfamily housing” for families where grandparents are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren. For information on the Villard Square model, go to

[http://www.mpl.org/file/villard\\_index.htm](http://www.mpl.org/file/villard_index.htm). Proposals for the East Library project are available to view online, go to

<http://city.milwaukee.gov/ImageLibrary/Groups/cityDCD/realestate/EastLibrary/RFPRevisedSubmissions.pdf>

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