

# Wauwatosa alderman steps down to avoid conflict of interest

City likely to review issues involving his new business

**By ANNYSA JOHNSON**  
anjohns@journal-sentinel.com

**Wauwatosa** — Ald. Tim Casey has announced he will resign from the Common Council to avoid potential conflicts of interest with a new business venture in which he stands to profit from development in the city.

Casey, who has represented the 2nd District for nearly 10

years, is a principal in a new brokerage firm that is concentrating on commercial real estate leasing and sales.

Although he has long been involved in economic development, Casey said he rarely has had to recuse himself from city business, but he feared that would change in his new role with Equity Commercial Real Estate LLC.

"We're based in Wauwatosa and I'm a principal — that's what's different," Casey said this week. "Now, every assign-

ment has the potential to benefit me financially."

Casey said he came to the conclusion that he would have to step down after meeting late last year with Mayor Theresa Estness and Community Development Director Nancy Welch to discuss whether an idea being considered by a developer is consistent with the city's vision. He declined to identify the location or the developer but said any project there would likely require the city to solicit requests for pro-

posals.

"It was clear from that that it's the right time to step aside," he said.

Welch said she knew of no properties under city review in which Equity Commercial has an interest.

Equity Commercial, 10425 W. North Ave., was formed in the fall by Richard Jungen of Central States Mortgage Co. and three brokers, including Casey, who had worked previously for Town of Brookfield-based Wangard Partners.

During his tenure, Casey said, the council has "done a good job holding the line on taxes and maintaining the service levels people expect in Wauwatosa."

Residents of the 2nd District interested in the aldermanic seat must apply by letter to the Wauwatosa Clerk's Office, 7725 W. North Ave., by 5 p.m. Feb. 16. Interviews will be conducted the week of Feb. 20. Casey's successor, who will be selected by the Common Council, will serve until April 2007.