



## Council for the Spanish Speaking, Inc

614 W. National Ave. • Milwaukee, WI 53204  
Phone: 414.384.3700 • Fax: 414.384.7622

# PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

Contact: Aldira Aldape  
Phone: 414.384.3700 ext. 236  
Email: [aldiraaldape@aol.com](mailto:aldiraaldape@aol.com)

### Council for Spanish Speaking, Inc.'s recently acquired building collapsed in massive storms on Saturday

Milwaukee, WI, June 11, 2008 – The Council for the Spanish Speaking, Inc. recently purchased the Weimer-Acapulco buildings on the corner of National Ave. and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Plans were made to transform these abandoned buildings into a gateway to Milwaukee's Latin Quarter. Now, the architectural plans will have to be altered as the 600-604 building collapsed on Saturday in torrential rain and thunder storms that hit Southeastern Wisconsin.



Above: 600-604 building before storm

“It is really unfortunate that the building on National Ave. and 6<sup>th</sup> St. collapsed during the heavy rains, but the Council will continue to move forward with its planning processes. We are already involving others in our planning, including staff, and we are developing new plans to present to the board of directors and others,” says Dr. Luis “Tony” Báez, president and CEO of the Council.

The Council purchased the two buildings for \$350,000 in December 2007 with dreams of expanding and increasing the services provided to the community as well as expanding its headquarters. The new designs included conference space for community and business events, Adult Education classes such as Adult Basic Education and English as a Second Language, rental space for *Centro Legal* and other tenants, and a new Spanish Language Institute to teach conversational Spanish to professionals.

During major wind, rain and thunder storms on Saturday, the 600-604 building began to collapse and city officials requested an emergency demolition in fear of a complete collapse. The city determined that the instability of the property created an imminent risk of harm to the health



Above: 600-604 building after storm

and welfare of the public. Prior to purchasing the facilities, the Council performed a structural analysis that verified the buildings were structurally sound.

The capital campaign to renovate the buildings was set to begin in July. New construction will be more expensive and the Council still needs to pay the mortgage on the property. Council management has been meeting to determine how to move forward. New plans for the demolished facility will be forwarded to the board of directors and other pertinent parties.

Currently, the Council's programs include Adult Education and Training, Guadalupe Head Start, Loyola Academy High School, Housing for the Elderly and Mobility Impaired, and Social Services. The Council also hosts two major annual events, the Thanksgiving Food Drive and *El Día de los Niños*. The Council is reaching out to the community for help to support the renovation efforts. For more information about the Council and ways to support the capital campaign, please contact Executive Assistant Aldira Aldape at 414.384.3700 x236 or [aldiraaldape@aol.com](mailto:aldiraaldape@aol.com). The Council has set up a capital campaign fund on their website, [www.councilforthespanishspeakingmilw.org](http://www.councilforthespanishspeakingmilw.org), to encourage community members to make a donation toward this project.

###