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Common Council President

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15th District Alderman



**Willie L. Hines, Jr.**  
*City of Milwaukee Common Council*

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## **President Hines, YMCA Announce New Mentoring Recruitment Program**

This morning, Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. announced the implementation of the YMCA Mentoring Recruitment Campaign called "Why Mentor," which includes a promising partnership between the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee and the City of Milwaukee. At this morning's press conference in the City Hall rotunda, President Hines said that mentoring can play a key role in transforming challenging communities.

"I have seen the positive impact of mentoring personally in my own life, and I have seen it work in some of our most crime-infested neighborhoods," said President Hines. "When a young man or woman lacks a positive role model – someone who has sincere interest and takes the time to listen – then negative influences can easily overpower those young people. But mentors are a powerful antidote to those destructive elements."

President Hines explained that mentors share more than their experiences and personal stories – they also share life skills, interpersonal strategies and conflict resolution. They offer networking advice and expose young people to productive habits that can ensure successful careers. "In short," added President Hines, "mentors can make a huge difference in an individual's life and throughout the City of Milwaukee."

Bob Heger, Executive Vice President of Operations for the YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee, also spoke about the importance of mentoring, as well as Kathy Munson, Director of Mentoring Programs for the YMCA. Ulice Payne, President of Addison-Clifton and Incoming Chair of the National YMCA of the USA Board of Directors, also encouraged those in the audience to take part in the new program. Cavalier Johnson, a mentee, and Ken Cook, a mentor, also shared their positive personal experiences with mentoring.

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## **President Hines and YMCA/ADD ONE**

“The YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee is thrilled that President Hines is a dedicated partner in our ‘Why Mentor’ campaign to recruit 400 new mentors for One on One and Sponsor-A-Scholar,” said Kathy Munson. “Our mentoring programs reach out to students who face many challenges to academic achievement in their schools and communities. With the support and guidance of a mentor, each of these young people will graduate from high school, go on to college, realize their potential and fulfill their dreams. Many of our college graduates are now contributing members in our community, giving back for what has been given to them.”

In the City Hall rotunda, the YMCA has placed a sign-up table for professionals who work for the City of Milwaukee to partner with individuals in need of mentors. President Hines will be encouraging city colleagues and employees to participate in this program in the coming weeks. For more information on “Why Mentor” and the partnership between the YMCA and the City of Milwaukee, please contact Marie Olmsted at [mentoring@ymcamke.org](mailto:mentoring@ymcamke.org) or 414-274-0828. More information is also available at [www.ymcamke.org/mentoring](http://www.ymcamke.org/mentoring).

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