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Licenses Committee

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**MILELE A. COGGS**

6th District Alderwoman

**Denim Day Raises Awareness**  
**Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs**  
**April 27, 2011**

In 1999, the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because the victim was wearing jeans. The Justices stated that removing tight fitting jeans could not be possible if the victim were struggling; therefore the victim must have assisted the attacker in removing her jeans, which they felt implied consent.

Women's clothing or fashions have nothing to do with crimes inflicted upon them—what you wear does not bring about sexual assault. As a response to this verdict, communities all over the world celebrate Denim Day in April, which is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is supporting this activism by creating awareness around sexual assault by wearing denim and an "Ask me why I'm wearing denim" sticker today.

This activism, however, needs to be in place not just one day a year, but daily. The City of Milwaukee's Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault meets regularly to continue to address ways to create safety within our community for victims of this violence and harassment.

Awareness is essential, but so too is change. We must continue to cultivate a culture where women can safely walk through and engage their communities without fear of assault and the further humiliation of being judged for their clothing or actions. Assault is the crime, not one's clothing or circumstance.

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