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Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
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Milwaukee Jobs Act measure seeks input on path to creating jobs

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton today called on supporters of a Milwaukee Jobs Act “to begin the real work of creating jobs for city residents” by working more cooperatively and collaboratively with the Common Council.

In an effort to spur that collaboration and communication, Alderman Hamilton, lead sponsor of the Milwaukee Jobs Act proposal (Council file # 111113), will introduce a communication file at tomorrow’s meeting of the **Judiciary and Legislation Committee (1:30 p.m. in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.)** seeking input on how the Jobs Act should be created and executed.

Alderman Hamilton said he wants supporters to begin making themselves “part of the process that can lead to results.”

“To date we’ve seen a lot of protests and calls for action, but those activities alone will not help us create the jobs we all want for our residents, and they do nothing to help us lower the abysmal employment rate among black males in Milwaukee,” said Alderman Hamilton, chair of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee.

“A Jobs Act that can make a difference and be truly effective must be the result of a thorough vetting through the legislative process,” he said. “We need to get on with the difficult business of that process.”

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Jobs Act/ADD ONE

The alderman said he fears some of the supporters who have been rallying for the Jobs Act have been attempting to “overtly politicize the legislative process” to spur action on the Jobs Act legislation. “Attempting to use political intimidation would not have helped me bring about the ‘Milwaukee Promise’ legislation (designed to identify funding in the city budget that should and could be used directly to address poverty, inequality and disparity – and make sure those funds are going to intended purposes),” Alderman Hamilton said.

“Hard work and collaboration with my colleagues, with staff, and at times with the administration helped make the ‘Milwaukee Promise’ happen – not rhetoric, and not political gamesmanship,” he said.

The framework of the Milwaukee Jobs Act legislation is being developed by Council staff, and the measure has been assigned to the Council’s Community and Economic Development Committee.