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MILELE A. COGGS

6th District Alderwoman

Everest College Impending Closure No Surprise

Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Cogg September 10, 2012

I was truly not surprised by Everest College's announcement late last week that it is closing its campus at N. 6th St. and W. McKinley Ave. in the 6th Aldermanic District.

Everest, part of Corinthian Colleges, Inc. is a project that I and several other community stakeholders consistently and firmly opposed from the beginning, including leading oppositional efforts before the Board of Zoning Appeals and at the Common Council. My position has always been that the college is not an educational institution but rather an educational business with a goal of profit, not placement. In my opinion, Everest had not been student-focused and was geared instead simply to make as much money as possible.

The college and its parent company have a history of promising a quality education and jobs, but the only thing many students received after enrolling is crushing debt from the student loans they took out.

Now, it is assured that no additional students will be taken in by Everest and left in a position of academic uncertainty and racked with debt. I sincerely hope that anyone who has or is attending Everest is able to find viable employment opportunities.

The Everest closure means that for the immediate future there will be a vacant academic campus facility at the 6th and McKinley location, and I have requested that the Department of City Development assist the facility owners as much as is possible to find a viable tenant that co-exists well with the existing neighbors and will attract additional quality development in the area. And, I will continue to represent my district with the best interests of my constituents as my number one priority.

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