



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

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President Hines will be part of Monday's briefing for minority contractors for Potawatomi hotel project

City of Milwaukee **Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.** will take part in an informational meeting for minority contractors at **8:30 a.m. tomorrow (Monday, March 19)** in the Woodland Dreams Ballroom of **Potawatomi Bingo Casino, 1721 W. Canal St.**

President Hines, who will deliver welcoming remarks at the meeting, said the session will allow participants to learn more about opportunities for minority contractors during the construction phase of the casino's proposed \$150 million hotel project. "With our high unemployment rate among minorities in Milwaukee – and especially the chronic and worsening employment rate among black males – the commitment made by the Tribe to offer contractors of color an opportunity to play a large role in this project is a major, positive step in putting people back to work," he said.

The Forest County Potawatomi Community has set a goal of awarding at least 20% of work related to the hotel to minority contractors, a potential \$30 million or more slice of the total project cost. Additionally, the Tribe is hopeful it can have Milwaukee residents representing 25% of all construction workers on the project.

The hotel project will be presented to the Common Council for consideration and approval. The informational session is being held now to allow time for the bid process prior to an anticipated late-spring groundbreaking.

According to information provided by the Tribe, during the casino's most recent expansion, completed in 2008, more than 23% of construction work was awarded to minority firms. Additionally, of the 2,500 employees at Potawatomi Bingo Casino, more than 53% are people of color.

Participants at Monday's open house will be given information on the tentative construction requirements, pre-qualification requirements and the bid process. Registration for the event will begin at 8 a.m. with the formal program scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Advance registration is required. To RSVP please email mfrey@greenfirellc.net.