

August 16, 2011

The Honorable
Mayor Tom Barrett
City Hall
200 East Wells Street Room 201
Milwaukee WI 53202

Mayor Barrett:

As you know The *Milwaukee Promise* was added by amendment to the City's 2011 budget—adopted by the Common Council and signed by your office.

It is my expectation and that of my Common Council colleagues that the *Milwaukee Promise* be used as a vehicle for organizing a comprehensive strategy for the City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County and Milwaukee Public Schools to formulate ways to collaborate, as well as a means of addressing and sharing the vision of the City for the next 10 years.

The 2011 State Fair has ended and attendance has been great, despite the negative events of August 4th. All is well with the State Fair, however, the root causes of what triggered those events and others like them will not simply vanish. In Milwaukee we have far too many impoverished children living in “challenged” neighborhoods, and who are part of a community that has been neglected for far too long. The future for these children remains uncertain and no real solutions have been discussed.

That is why I am demanding that we take the opportunity to reprioritize the City of Milwaukee's approach to education, public safety, and economic growth in this budget cycle.

I fully recognize that tackling many of these issues will require resources far greater than those readily available to the City of Milwaukee.

As a Council member I realize we must be fiscally responsible with our delivery of basic city services; but in this budget cycle I believe we must also start thinking about ways of delivering equity and social justice for all the good citizens in the City of Milwaukee.

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We must recognize many of the problems that our constituents and citizens are enduring occur here and now, within the boundaries of the City of Milwaukee, and it is imperative that we lead the charge!

This is not a call for another consultant study. We have plenty of research and studies to draw from, including Professor Marc Levine's work at UW-Milwaukee, studies by the NAACP, Urban League, Social Development Commission, the African American Male Unemployment Task Force by the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, and many others.

Now is the time for action and implementation, because if we continue to conduct "business as usual," we will unfortunately – I fear – see further decline and disorder in our city. The community is calling for us to conduct business differently, and that is what we should and must do.

Sincerely,



Ashanti Hamilton
1st District Alderman



Milele A. Coggs
6th District Alderwoman



Willie Wade
7th District Alderman



Nik Kovac
3rd District Alderman



Michael Murphy
10th District Alderman



Robert Bauman
4th District Alderman

Willie Hines Jr
15th District Alderman

Enclosures