

JOE DAVIS, SR.

Alderman, 2nd District

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- Convenient Lending Task Force
- Sister Cities Committee

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VICE CHAIR

- National League of Cities' International Council



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- Public Safety Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation
- National League of Cities' Board of Directors
- National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Board of Directors

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Milwaukee needs greater investment in human capital

Statement of Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. May 29, 2013

As I reflect on the decision that was announced yesterday regarding the Derek Williams case, I was reminded that the tragic situation that occurred raised an alarm with me. Derek was accused of being involved in a robbery attempt and attempted to flee after law enforcement arrived on the scene (and the rest of the story we know). But what troubles me is why Derek, and other African American males, decide to risk their freedom and lives for a petty crime, and I've come to the conclusion that it's about economics; or a lack thereof.

I drive through our community and see unemployed African American males hopelessly trying to survive in an economic environment that gives them few options. We, the City of Milwaukee, have created a lack of opportunity for a segment of our population by not addressing our poverty, crime, unemployment, and economic problems with innovativeness and a zealot mentality. I take personal responsibility for the adverse conditions that exist in the City of Milwaukee because I am part of the strategic public/private partnership that involves the role local government.

We must define ourselves by the strength of our supply chain. Our "Human Capital" must not be expendable, but instead must be our competitive advantage. We must address the pain that is lurking in the dark places of our city, and create a shining opportunity of healing and productivity for this and the next generation of African American males. We must, we have to, we have no option but to; for if we don't?

"Houston (the City of Milwaukee), We Have A Problem."

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