

The FRONTLINE

SUMMER 2013



1st District Alderman Ashanti Hamilton

City Hall | Room 205 | 200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-2228 | www.milwaukee.gov/district1 | ahamil@milwaukee.gov

Dear 1st District Residents,

As the new term is well underway, I would like to thank the residents of the 1st District for giving me another opportunity to serve you in city government. Your trust in me continues to drive my work at City Hall.

I will use this newsletter to outline the priorities that I have for the district over the course of the next four years. Despite our district being hit hard by the economic recession, I will remain committed to being fiscally responsible with city resources and demanding fair and efficient delivery of city services to our district.

Additionally, I will ask for your support in advocating for improvement in our city in four policy areas: education, public safety, economic development and addressing health disparities. Our collective work to have a positive impact in these policy areas will ultimately have a major influence on the quality of life for the residents in our district.

I hope you find the information in this newsletter both informative and helpful. As you can see, I've been very busy at City Hall. As always, if there is a question or a concern I can help you with, please don't hesitate to contact me at **286-2228** or by emailing ahamil@milwaukee.gov.

Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Ashanti Hamilton
Alderman, 1st District



Committee Assignments

- PRESIDENT** Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees
- CHAIR** Judiciary & Legislation Committee
- MEMBER** Community & Economic Development Committee
- MEMBER** Steering & Rules Committee
- MEMBER** Finance & Personnel Committee
- MEMBER** Wisconsin Center District Board of Directors

View meetings on the web at: www.milwaukee.gov/channel25

Follow Alderman Hamilton on Twitter: [@AlderHamilton](https://twitter.com/AlderHamilton)
and also on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ashanti.hamilton

U.S. Civil Rights Division Now Accepting Tips from Milwaukee Citizens About MPD



Alderman Hamilton joined other members of the Common Council in calling for greater transparency into the investigation of Derek Williams's death, one of several instances that prompted the USDOJ to take a closer look at the MPD.

Residents who believe Milwaukee Police officers have violated their rights have an outlet for their concerns, with the announcement by U.S. Attorney James Santelle that the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice has set up a toll-free tip line and email address. The information gathered through these sources will be used to help determine whether Mr. Santelle and the Civil Rights Division should conduct a formal "pattern and practice" investigation of the Milwaukee Police Department.

Anyone interested in providing information can contact the Department of Justice by calling **1(855) 544-5132** or via email at community.milwaukee@usdoj.gov. The recorded phone message is in both English and Spanish.

Alderman Hamilton is urging all residents who believe they have witnessed a police abuse of power or have had their rights violated to contact the USDOJ. He also applauded Mr. Santelle and thanked him for his response to their concerns.

"The vital information the Civil Rights Division is collecting could end up forming the groundwork for a formal 'pattern and practice' investigation of the Milwaukee Police Department," Alderman Hamilton said. "In light of recent events, such an investigation could provide much-needed transparency and justice for those who have been wronged."



City, Developer Save Historic Garden Homes Residence from Wrecking Ball

A once endangered historic residence in the Garden Homes neighborhood will remain as a Milwaukee landmark and a habitable residence, thanks to a cooperative effort between several city entities and a local developer.

Alderman Hamilton helped cut the ribbon to the home at 4381 N. 26th St., along with members of the Historic Preservation Commission, officials from the Neighborhood Improvement Development Corp. (NIDC), representatives from the Wisconsin Historical Society, Historic Milwaukee, Inc. and the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance.

“This project preserves an important and unique part of Milwaukee’s history, as the Garden Homes development is believed to be the nation’s first example of Garden City planning,” Alderman Hamilton said. “Milwaukee really does hold a special place in the history of American city planning.”

At one time the home was a city-owned foreclosed property scheduled for demolition. However, after the home became part of the Garden Homes National Register Historic District, it was sold by the city to a local developer who has subsequently worked with NIDC and HPC using neighborhood stabilization program (NSP) funds to renovate the house both inside and out.

The Garden Homes neighborhood, built from 1921 to 1923, was the nation’s first and only municipally-built cooperative housing development aimed at providing affordable housing. The homes and the cooperative form of ownership were patterned after affordable housing developments in England, and the streets in Garden Homes were originally named after the English prototypes. Today only one street – Port Sunlight Way – retains its original name.

A total of 93 single family and side-by-side duplexes were built, and 91 buildings are still standing today. The houses were built assembly-line style, and all were finished on the exterior with stucco and either red or green roofs. The streets curved, unlike the city’s predominant grid system, and a small park is at the center of the development.

Garden Homes was always a tax-paying entity, and it never lost money, although the cooperative form of ownership was gradually phased out by the late 1930s. Today, Garden Homes is listed on the National Register of Historic Places specifically because of its place in the history of American city planning.

Signs of Economic Life in Century City

Once a stark reminder of the economic problems that plague the manufacturing sector and Milwaukee’s disadvantaged neighborhoods, the Century City area, former home of businesses like Tower Automotive and A.O. Smith, is beginning a major transformation on Milwaukee’s north side.

Driven by a \$35 million city redevelopment plan, crews spent the last year demolishing unusable buildings along the 30th St. corridor. The work also included environmental remediation, the removal of asbestos from buildings and the construction of a new street, sidewalks and other public improvements to make the area more attractive to developers.

Vacant parcels of the site are being made available for purchase this year, with the eventual vision for the site including a mix of light industrial and back office buildings, along with a limited number of apartments and commercial space. Milwaukee Development Commissioner Rocky Marcoux said the site could host businesses with an estimated 900 employees on its 74 developable acres, including entry-level jobs at food companies and high-skill, higher-wage positions at advanced manufacturers.

There are already positive developments taking place in the area. Thomas Ryan, president of Jonco Industries Inc., purchased the seven-story building at 4201 N. 27th St. that was being abandoned by Eaton Corp. Alderman Hamilton was among those who lent enthusiastic support for Ryan’s bid to receive New Market Tax Credits, intended to help with remodeling and buildout for new tenants.

Ryan plans to relocate some of Jonco’s operations to the former Eaton building, and make the rest of the space available to lessees. He said there has already been interest from nonprofit agencies, which could begin moving into the facility this year.

“Mr. Ryan’s project complements Milwaukee’s plans for the Century City area, and will make a positive impact on my district and the city by providing job opportunities in an area that sorely needs them,” Alderman Hamilton said. “It is estimated that at least 50 percent of African American men in this part of the city are unemployed.”

There are other signs of life in Century City. A number of former Tower Automotive buildings outside the city’s redevelopment area are being used to run storage, scrap and recycling operations. Another portion of the site was purchased by the city, and used to build a Department of Public Works facility. And new development in the neighborhood includes the Century City Lofts, a 37-unit apartment community that was completed in July at N. 35th St.

Alderman Hamilton sees much to be hopeful about as development of Century City heads into its next phase. “When it’s completed, this modern business park will provide economic opportunities for residents and, ultimately, hundreds of jobs for the area,” he said.

[The former Eaton Corp. building will now serve as a home for some operations of Jonco Industries Inc., as well as other business tenants.](#)



Common Council Approves Milwaukee Jobs Act Initiative



The Common Council has approved creation of the Milwaukee Jobs Act – Transitional Jobs Program, a multifaceted effort to create employment opportunities for young people and job seekers from areas of the city that have been particularly hard-hit, economically.

Alderman Hamilton, the primary sponsor of the legislation creating the Milwaukee Jobs Act, said he believes the initiative is a strong “initial step forward” in helping young Milwaukeeans connect with a strong and positive first employment experience, while addressing key neighborhood needs in the city.

“The Jobs Act programs are all intended to improve the physical infrastructure of deteriorating neighborhoods, and to do it with people from the block and from around the corner who will leave the Transitional Jobs Program with a whole lot more than money in their pocket and a cleaner, better neighborhood,” Alderman Hamilton said. “They will leave our program with formal training

in the professional trades and with access to a career ladder for future employment.”

In the works for nearly a year, the \$700,000 program is made possible entirely by a payment to the city connected to the development of the Harley-Davidson Museum. Because of Common Council action, the developer of the museum project agreed to pay the city \$700,000 in return for being relieved of the requirement to complete the third phase of the museum project.

One key element of the program is making the Mayor’s Earn and Learn Program a year round opportunity for city young people. Currently, the Earn and Learn program provides summer



Alderman Hamilton joins a Running Rebels demolition team in taking down a garage during a project funded by the Milwaukee Jobs Act.

intern employment opportunities for young people who learn valuable job skills working in city departments and at local employers.

Mayor Tom Barrett said he believes the Milwaukee Jobs Act can mirror the success of the Earn and Learn program. “I’d like to thank Alderman Hamilton for his leadership and members of the Common Council for their support of this program. This was a unique opportunity to give Milwaukeeans the chance to gain meaningful work experience through these various programs,” he said.

The additional allocation of \$168,000 for a year-round Mayor’s Earn and Learn Program will create opportunities for an additional 87 young people (the program previously served more than 470 young people).

Elements of the Jobs Act programs include:

- Mayor’s Earn and Learn Program – \$168,000
- Common Council’s Neighborhood Ambassador Program – \$80,000
- Garage Demolition Program – \$180,000
- Mayor’s Manufacturing Partnership Program – \$207,000
- Hybrid Deconstruction Pilot Program – \$55,000
- LEAP Program – \$10,000

Milwaukee Residents Already Benefiting

The Milwaukee Jobs Act took two more significant steps toward putting city residents back to work, with the Common Council approval of funding that increases the number of positions in the LEAP program and dramatically expands the Neighborhood Ambassador Program.

“The Milwaukee Jobs Act continues to make a difference in the lives of city residents who have been affected the most by the economic recession,” Alderman Hamilton said. “I’m grateful to my colleagues on the Common Council and Mayor Tom Barrett’s administration for the support that has enabled this young program to become so successful so soon.”

One measure approved this winter by the Common Council allocated \$10,000 in additional funding to the city’s LEAP (Learn, Earn and Achieve with Police) program. LEAP places teens aged 17 to 19 in paid summer internships with participating companies, where they spend 20 hours per week gaining valuable on-the-job experience Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, interns participate in the Milwaukee Police Department STOP (Students Talking it Over with Police) program, which is designed to improve communication and build trust between police and teens.

The infusion of \$10,000 in funding will allow the LEAP program to expand from its inaugural class of 17 last summer.

“Expanding LEAP will further increase our base of skilled workers and prepare more young people for the workplace, giving them the skills and confidence they need to be job ready,” Alderman Hamilton said. He noted that some of the inaugural LEAP graduates were offered full-time employment opportunities by participating employers.

In another piece of Jobs Act legislation that received final approval, council members expanded a component of the Transitional Jobs Program known as the Neighborhood Ambassador Program. The Department of City Development-administered program awarded \$58,168 in grant funds to a service provider that will start or expand neighborhood ambassador programs similar to Downtown BID No. 21’s “Clean Sweep” initiative.

The grant funds provided for hiring 24 neighborhood ambassadors at a pay rate of \$10 per hour and two crew leaders at a pay rate of \$13 per hour. The Milwaukee residents hired for those positions had to qualify as being unemployed or underemployed, and worked two six-week sessions in April and June picking up litter, cleaning up graffiti and removing snow as needed in various BIDs.

Participants also received assistance with resume writing, job skills and applying for jobs online. Applications for the positions were accepted in March.



Alderman Hamilton congratulates Sadie Carter and Dottie Hicks, whose block watch program was recognized at a Milwaukee Police Department luncheon for its effectiveness in thwarting crime in their neighborhood.

Economic Empowerment Tour a Success in Milwaukee



Alderman Hamilton (right) is joined by (from left) Ryan Mack, Attorney Verona Swanigan, Manaan and Rosha Hamilton, participants in the Economic Empowerment Tour's stop in Milwaukee.

Alderman Hamilton this year helped orchestrate a successful economic empowerment event aimed at helping African Americans and Latinos deal more effectively with economic and financial challenges, and plans to pursue another visit by the tour in the coming year.

The "Less Talk...More Action Tour" – presented by the Optimum Institute of Economic Empowerment (OIEE) in partnership with the Campaign for Black Male Achievement – came to Milwaukee Public Library's Central Library. Created in direct response to the economic hardships faced by the African American and Latino communities because of the lagging economy, the tour made stops in a dozen cities, and included a number of local workshops.

Alderman Hamilton, who has been involved in efforts to identify and nurture means of boosting black male achievement, said tour organizers intended to reach out to minority communities to provide planning tools and advice to enable them to make better financial decisions. He said extensive use is being made in each city of empowerment workshops tailored to reach local residents.

"I am strongly in support of this effort, especially its focus on using financial literacy as a primary tool of empowerment for African American and Latino communities," Alderman Hamilton said, noting that the National Coalition of 100 Black Women – Milwaukee Chapter generously agreed to staff the event at the Central Library.

Additional information on the tour can also be found on Facebook under "Less Talk...More Action Empowerment Tour."

NAACP's One MKE Town Hall Encourages Civic Engagement

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton joined with Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs to host the One MKE Stakeholders Town Hall Meeting early this year. The event, designed to help residents learn their "special interest," be a part of creating an agenda, and learn the process on how to effectively fight for it, was organized by the NAACP Milwaukee Branch.

To begin the new year in the spirit of collaboration, a wide variety of the city's stakeholders, thought leaders and professional organizations were invited to join in on the conversation, geared toward encouraging civic engagement among Milwaukee's African American community in response to alarming racial statistics.

Despite living in a country of abundance, Alderman Hamilton said that resources seldom seem to be used in a manner that has any long-term, meaningful impact in the African-American community. With the tremendous success that African-Americans have achieved individually, it has not necessarily facilitated a better overall condition for the community. The One MKE Stakeholders Town Hall Meeting asked participants to be a part of changing that narrative.

"After record voter participation in a number of elections this past year, it is now time for the African-American community to present a results-oriented, solutions-based agenda that will move our community and, therefore, the entire city forward," Alderman Hamilton said.

The summit was only the second of its kind in Milwaukee, but organizers are already beginning the process of planning a third for 2014.

Alderman Hamilton was among a handful of community leaders who spoke to 20 young men in a Bradley Tech High School leadership group. Alderman Hamilton stressed the importance of career options, leadership and academic success to the young men's futures.





Council Holds the Line with 2013 City Budget

Much like most Milwaukee families, city government continues the balancing act of paying its bills while operating within an increasingly confined budget. And again this year, the Milwaukee Common Council has passed an amended city budget that holds the line on property taxes while maintaining crucial city services.

The 2013 tax levy approved by the Common Council in November was \$250.39 million, up 0.96 percent from 2012's \$248 million levy, and \$20,878 less than the Mayor's proposed 2013 budget levy. Following a few changes made by the Mayor's veto pen, the owner of an average Milwaukee home will see a \$46 decrease in the city portion of their tax bill, which with a modest \$17 increase in fees for solid waste and other services, provides \$29 in relief to homeowners.

"Early in the budget process, we identified minimizing the impact on property tax payers as a top priority," Alderman Hamilton said. "Continued responsibility and austerity are key to maintaining the city's fiscal health in the years ahead and maintaining the level of service consistent with other communities."

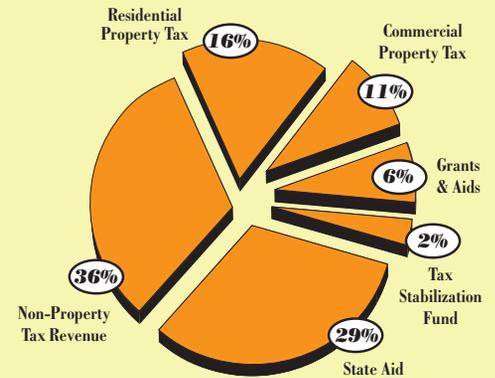
The Common Council approved changes to the Mayor's proposed budget that increase the amount of overtime funding available to the Milwaukee Police Department by \$350,000. And with the urban forestry division facing a backload of tree stumps in need of removal and replacement, Common Council members voted to increase funding for those services by \$500,000.

As part of ongoing efforts to expand upon diversity and public safety in Milwaukee, Council members signed off on an amendment that finds funding for 13 additional Fire Cadet positions, to start with the scheduled class in September 2013. Fire Cadets are uniformed civilian employees who work in an apprentice-style program designed to prepare them for a career as Milwaukee Firefighters.

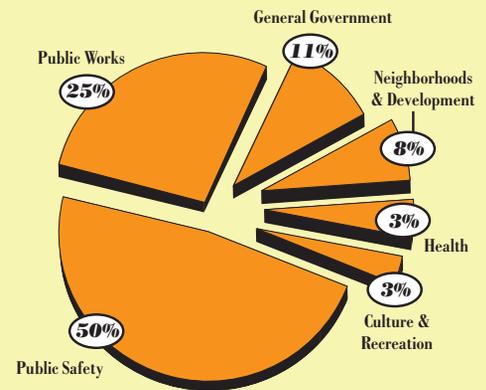
"Very simply, this budget offers Milwaukee residents a little more for their tax dollar, without increasing the burden on hardworking families," Alderman Hamilton said.

City of Milwaukee 2013 Budget Sources and Uses of Funds

Sources of City Revenue



City Services Provided by this Revenue



Community Groups "Saving Our Sons" Through Mentoring

Milwaukee Public Schools and a host of community groups are seeking mentors for a new campaign aimed at supporting young men of color dubbed "Saving Our Sons – I will not die young."

"This is part of a larger initiative to increase students' engagement in their school communities. We're being proactive – creating school cultures in which students feel they have a vested interest," Superintendent Gregory Thornton said. "The Saving Our Sons effort specifically is targeted at young men of color because of the alarming levels of violence in the community and the academic struggles involving and affecting these young men."

The Saving Our Sons effort is focused on increasing attendance, academic achievement and school engagement, while reducing suspension and incident rates. Future efforts will focus on young women and expanding the existing student leadership initiatives that have been successful in a handful of MPS schools.

100 Black Men of Milwaukee has offered training for volunteer mentors. Anyone who is interested in learning more can contact MPS volunteer coordinator Heather Aschoff at (414) 773-9823.

Through the creation of Saving Our Sons chapters at 10 MPS schools serving high-schoolers – Bradley Tech, Hamilton, Morse • Marshall, North Division, Pulaski, Riverside, Rufus King, South Division, Vincent and Washington Information Technology – mentors can actively work with students by helping them transform their lives academically, socially and culturally.

Flood the Hood with Dreams, Inc. will direct and facilitate each school chapter with the support of other community organizations, services and mentors.

Alderman Hamilton is already among the community leaders and organizations that have expressed an interest in helping facilitate the project. Those also include the Brotherhood of Firefighters, Greek Letter organizations, Gee's Clippers, the African World Festival group, the Milwaukee Bucks, the Running Rebels, the Fatherhood Initiative, Earl Ingram, Eric Von, Peace for Change Alliance, Inc., Pitts Funeral Home, Dr. Decoteau Irby, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a number of faith-based partners.

Did You Know?

Milwaukee is an exciting place to live with lots of great things to do. Here is but a small sampling of ways to get involved, save money and enjoy yourself in Milwaukee.

Organize a neighborhood cleanup:
272-5462 or www.kgmb.org

Save money with a weekly bus pass:
www.ridemcts.com

Send your child to a great school:
www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us

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1st District Alderman **Ashanti Hamilton**



Alderman Hamilton

City Hall, Rm. 205
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Milwaukee, WI 53202

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Simply call 211 to get help with life.

To call using a cell phone, dial 414-773-0211
or on a pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.

FREE Landlord Training

For future training dates call 286-2954 or to learn more about the program and view a class schedule go to:
www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining

CALL FOR ACTION GOVERNMENTAL INFORMATION DIRECTORY



Dear Resident,
It's my pleasure to provide you with this new, full-color, updated version of the Call for Action booklet. The booklet is arranged alphabetically by specific topics and problems, and it provides phone numbers and web addresses to help you reach the people who perform hundreds of services in city government.

The back pages also include county, state, and federal phone numbers, and additional numbers and web addresses of other frequently requested, non-government services and organizations.

The City of Milwaukee takes pride in its reputation of providing efficient, high quality, responsive, and cost-effective services to residents and businesses. The Call for Action booklet is well organized and can quickly connect you to the services and information you need.

Call for Action is published by the Common Council. If you or someone you know would like copies, please call our office at 286-2228.



Need Assistance or Have a Question?

Efficient delivery of the hundreds of services provided by city government is only a phone call or a computer click away – in the NEW, full-color “Call for Action” information directory. The popular directory is arranged alphabetically by specific problems and topics, and also includes helpful web addresses and additional information about community attractions.

Remember that in addition to contacting Alderman Hamilton’s office for help with your concerns, there is one number – **286-CITY (2489)** –

that can put you in touch with the right department for any questions or concerns about city services.

To save postage and staff costs, please download or print your own copy of the new Call for Action booklet by going to Alderman Hamilton's webpage at www.milwaukee.gov/district1. If you need to have a copy mailed to your home, please e-mail a request to amchen@milwaukee.gov.

An online version of the Call for Action is also available at:
www.milwaukee.gov/callforaction

Community Chronic Disease Management Clinic

For adults who do not have insurance:

- FREE screening and treatment for hypertension, noninsulin dependent diabetes, obesity and smoking cessation
- FREE preventative education
- Walk-ins welcome
- No appointments needed

For more information please call (414) 588-9178 or visit Columbia-StMarys.org/CCDM



Mondays **Word of Hope**

9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2677 N. 40th St., Milwaukee 53210

Mason Temple

2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
6098 N. 35th St., Milwaukee 53209



Wednesdays

Ebenezer

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
3132 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr.,
Milwaukee 53212

