

HinesHERALD

– COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT –
WILLIE L. HINES, JR.
15th Aldermanic District



City Hall, Room 205 • 200 E. Wells Street • Milwaukee, WI 53202 • PHONE: (414) 286-3965 • EMAIL: whines@milwaukee.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/district15

Dear Residents,

As winter comes to a close (we hope), our city still faces many challenges which, in the past several months, have played prominent roles in both residents' lives and media outlets. However, I believe that we can overcome each of these issues in time.

The goal of this newsletter is keep my constituents in the loop as to what is going on in their own backyard, and in city government. As you look inside, you will learn about helpful programs designed to assist homeowners with foreclosures and information about the latest smoke detector ordinances.

You will receive an in-depth, special update with details about public safety, the Fire and Police Commission, the Derek Williams case and other pressing issues that have shaped the course of city government in recent months. You will also find a detailed breakdown and update on the 2013 city budget, including an analysis of what your tax dollars pay for.

With the upcoming election, you will receive more insight into online registration and ways to efficiently exercise your right to vote. As you look further into this newsletter, you will find a host of activities, both educational and extracurricular, for youth to be involved in as the spring and summer arrive.

And finally, I want to introduce the newest member of my staff. Nyerere Davidson is my legislative assistant, and he is here to assist you with many of your needs and concerns. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at 286-3965.

Have a wonderful spring, and I hope to see you around the district.

Sincerely,

Willie L. Hines, Jr.



Please follow President Hines on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/AldHines
You can also find him on Flickr and on the City of Milwaukee's website:
www.milwaukee.gov/district15

SPRING 2013



While he was visiting his hometown, Milwaukee-raised R&B recording artist and actor Jacob Latimore visited with Alderman Hines and several other elected officials in the President's office.

Earn & Learn Internship Applications Due April 5

Online applications are now being accepted for the city's **2013 Earn & Learn Summer Youth Internship Program.**

Applicants who are selected for the 124 city government internships will work 20 hours a week for eight weeks (beginning June 17, 2013), and will earn \$7.25 per hour.



Earn & Learn is the City of Milwaukee's program to help young people make a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood by providing opportunities to develop work-readiness skills while they earn wages working in government, community- and faith-based organizations and private sector businesses.

To qualify for an internship, **applicants must be between the ages of 16 and 19** and live within the Community Development Block Grant area. Individuals who have previously held a city government internship position are not eligible to be hired a second time.



To learn more or apply for an internship, visit www.milwaukee.gov/SYIP and fill out an application by April 5, 2013.

Milwaukee Making Great Strides Toward Transparent, Accountable Policing

Recent events have tested the bonds between the Milwaukee Police Department and the broader community, but Alderman Hines points to several key developments as signs that better days are ahead for the relationship between the two.

For months, the headlines were dominated by upsetting stories involving the conduct of MPD officers. The District Attorney charged four of them with felonies, amid accusations that they conducted or were party to illegal strip and cavity searches performed on suspects during traffic stops on the north side. Officer Richard Schoen was initially given his job back after video from the back seat of his police car showed him punching an uncooperative woman repeatedly in the face. And in perhaps the most well-known incident, officers ignored 22-year-old robbery suspect Derek Williams's pleas for medical assistance as he died in the back of a Milwaukee Police Department squad car.

"These sorts of incidents simply cannot be swept under the rug and ignored," Alderman Hines said. "To respond with anything less than immediate, decisive action would have only furthered the injustices perpetrated against Milwaukee's citizens."

But with spring about to thaw the City of Milwaukee, Alderman Hines said there's a sense that hope may soon be in bloom, as well.

Alderman Hines was among the Common Council members who took an active role in pursuing answers from the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's office and other public officials about the nature of Derek Williams's death in police custody. The mounting pressure eventually resulted in a formal inquest, in which a jury recommended charges against three police officers accused of failing to render aid to the young man.

But while that process was ongoing, Alderman Hines was instrumental in reaching out to the U.S. Department of Justice in the hopes that federal investigators would take an independent look at the case. They agreed to do just that, and are in the midst of that process now.

Additionally, while the district attorney's office was building a case against the officers charged with conducting illegal strip and cavity searches, pressure from leaders like Alderman Hines prompted the U.S. Department of Justice



Alderman Hines joined other members of the Common Council in calling for institutional change in the Milwaukee Police Department and greater transparency in the investigation of Derek Williams's death, one of several instances that prompted the U.S. Department of Justice to take a closer look at the MPD.

to begin reviewing whether there is cause to open a formal "pattern and practice" investigation into the Milwaukee Police Department. If it is launched and uncovers evidence of discriminatory practices or behavior, this civil rights case could result in a lawsuit that forces MPD to make sweeping institutional changes.

And in the case of Officer Richard Schoen, who was accused of beating a woman in the back of his police car, the public outcry to his reinstatement was deafening. This outrage prompted the Fire and Police Commission, which has the sole authority to discipline and fire police officers, to reexamine its decision and, ultimately, terminate his employment.

"It's my sincere hope that this is only the beginning of a bigger movement toward accountability and transparency in our Milwaukee Police Department," Alderman Hines said in a statement reacting to Officer Schoen's dismissal.

Fire and Police Commission

Since then, major changes have been made to the way that Fire and Police Commission members are appointed to their jobs. Traditionally, commissioners were appointed by the Mayor and had to be confirmed by a majority vote of the Common Council. However, the public had very little input into that process or opportunity to learn more about the candidates for office.

Working together with the Mayor's office, Aldermen Hines and Terry L. Witkowski, chair of the Public Safety Committee, have worked to launch a feature on the city's website that allows members of the public to submit applications to be considered for appointment to the Fire and Police Commission, as well as other city committees, boards and commissions.

Additionally, the Mayor has agreed that any further appointments to the Fire and Police Commission will be subjected to a rigorous series of hearings and information sessions with the public they will be expected to serve. Alderman Hines said the changes make the entire process more transparent and provide accountability to the public.

"At the end of the day, we know the vast, vast majority of police officers in this city are honest, hardworking men and women who are tasked with an incredibly difficult and dangerous job," Alderman Hines said. "To protect those good officers, and the public they are tasked with serving, we must hold bad police officers accountable for their misbehavior and seek justice for those who are wronged at their hands.

"The changes we have seen in recent months are good first steps, and working together, I believe positive things are on the horizon for Milwaukee and its police force," Alderman Hines said.

U.S. Civil Rights Division Now Accepting Tips from Milwaukee Citizens About 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 Hines 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 quick 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 Hines said. “In light of recent events, such an investigation could provide much-needed transparency and justice for those who have been wronged.”

Schedule a Neighborhood Walkthrough with Alderman Hines

In an effort to bring police, city officials and residents together to address problems in the community, Alderman Hines invites residents to schedule a neighborhood walkthrough of their part of town.

Alderman Hines, command staff from the Milwaukee Police Department and other vital city staff can come as a group to meet neighbors and tour several blocks. The walkthroughs not only serve as a visible deterrent to crime, but also offer residents a chance to provide direct feedback to city officials and build on a sense of community.

To request a walkthrough of your neighborhood, call Alderman Hines’s office at 286-3965.



Apply online!

Visit www.milwaukee.gov/appointments and www.milwaukee.gov/presidentsappointments to submit names and resumes for consideration as potential appointees to city commissions, boards and committees.

Smoke Alarm Upgrades Required This Summer

Starting this summer, property owners in Milwaukee will be required to install smoke alarms that are powered by 10-year or greater, non-removable batteries, in a measure aimed at saving lives.

Under an ordinance sponsored by Alderman Hines, the old smoke detector models that use nine-volt batteries will be phased out due to concerns that, too often, the batteries are not replaced or are removed for use in other devices. This is in the wake of numerous tragedies in recent years where Milwaukee residents unnecessarily lost their lives because there was not a functioning smoke detector in the house.

“The 15th Aldermanic District has the highest number of fire calls in the city,” Alderman Hines said. “This is a simple yet life-saving initiative that can have a tremendous impact on how citizens respond to fires and give them the best possible opportunity to escape without injury. Milwaukee has a history of leading on public safety issues, and this is just the latest example of us using technology to make the city safer.”

Starting June 1, property owners will be required to meet the new requirements when they replace smoke alarms on their property, or by October 1, 2017 at the very latest. Any smoke alarm located within 20 feet of the primary cooking appliance within the unit is required to be equipped with a silencing switch. Smoke alarms that plug-in or are hardwired are exempted from the upgrade requirement.

Additionally, every battery-operated smoke alarm must now be tested by the property owner not less than once every calendar year. The owner must provide a copy of test results to city officials upon request, and test results should include the date on which testing was performed and the name, telephone number and property relationship of the person who performed the test.

For those who may encounter financial difficulties equipping their homes with the proper smoke alarm, the city offers hardship assistance. Residents can call the Smoke Detector Hotline at 286-8980 to see if they might be eligible for a free smoke alarm to comply with the new requirements.

“These are the lives of you and your family that are at stake,” Alderman Hines said. “At the end of the day, no one should be priced out of fire safety.”



Alderman Willie L. Hines, Jr., Fire Chief Mark Rohlfling and Mayor Tom Barrett held a press conference in the 15th Aldermanic District to discuss the importance of the new smoke alarm ordinance.

Communities on the Move

MANDIs Highlight Community Efforts

Every year corporate and public sector leaders gather to recognize outstanding efforts to revitalize Milwaukee's central city. The Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Innovation (MANDIs) are hosted by Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) Milwaukee and sponsored by U.S. Bank. On March 14th, winners were announced at a gala at the Pfister Hotel before an audience of 750 non-profit, corporate and public sector leaders.

The MANDIs are similar to the Oscar awards in that the winners are selected by their peers. A selection committee of 28 private, public and government volunteers reviews nominations, chooses finalists, visits each finalist and selects winners.

President Hines congratulates all the 15th District MANDI winners—Our Next Generation, Washington Park and Progressive Community Health Centers. All the finalists were exceptional!

The Restoration of Washington Park

Washington Park (a Milwaukee County Park) received the Brewers Community Foundation Public Space Award for their successful efforts to revitalize this important historic Milwaukee landmark. The cooperation of the Milwaukee County Department of Parks, the Urban Ecology Center and the Washington Park Partners, a coalition of neighborhood groups, has resulted in a 51 percent reduction in crime.

In addition, residents can now enjoy fruit orchards, soccer leagues, bicycle clubs, a summer concert series, new playgrounds, a farmers market and significant increases in park usage and programming.

Residents say Washington Park is being restored to its former status as a Milwaukee treasure. A member of the MANDIs selection committee remarked, "It's an amazing collaborative effort

to turn a vast, neglected park into a magnet for a healthy community!"

Contact: Laura Schloesser
Chief of Administration and External Affairs,
laura.schloesser@milwcnty.com • 257-7143

Mentoring Our Next Generation

Our Next Generation's Outbound Learning Program was awarded the PNC Trailblazer Award. The Our Next Generation Community Center, 2411 W. Lisbon Ave., provides students with educational and cultural experiences to help them succeed in school and life. The center's Outbound Learning Program offers children after-school hands-on learning, by taking them out of the neighborhood to partner groups for tutoring and mentoring.

Partners in the effort include St. John's by the Lake and Manpower Group, among others. Our Next Generation touts a 97 percent graduation rate of high school students who participate, with 80 percent going on to higher education. The average graduation rate in the neighborhood is 31 percent.

A selection committee member said the program has had a "tremendous influence on neighborhood kids."

Contact: Robert Dunn
rdunn@ongkinds.org • 344-2111

Progressive Healthcare Partnerships

Progressive Community Health Centers received the BMO Harris Bank Cornerstone Award for a long-standing commitment to meeting the health and medical care needs of community members, regardless of their ability to pay. Located at 35th St. and Lisbon Ave., the center has become an integral part of the neighborhood. PCHC partners with schools and community groups, and its comprehensive services include everything from dentistry to pediatrics in just an 8,000 square-foot facility.

Converting every inch of space into patient rooms and extending hours allowed the growing clinic to see more than 8,500 patients last year. Of these patients, 94 percent were uninsured or insured through Medicare and Medicaid.

Of PCHC, one selection committee member said, "The commitment to patient-centered care is breathtaking!"

Contact: Sarah Andritsch
Fund Development & Marketing Manager,
sarah.andritsch@progressivechc.org • 342-2011

To learn more about the MANDIs, visit www.milwaukeeens.org/mandi

If you want your community initiative or organization highlighted in the Hines HERALD, call 286-3965.

In Other Community News:

- The Men's Wellness Council premiered its documentary discussion of African American men's health, *No Longer an Island*, at the Inn at the Commons (the former Park's Place Tavern).
- Walnut Way hosted a successful fruit tree workshop where neighbors and friends were able to learn about fruit tree care and planting. Trees will be sold in April.
- Youth continue to participate in Art at the Heart of the Community, a year-long arts program for Lindsay Heights youth.
- The free Washington Park Earth Day Festival is planned for Saturday, April 20 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Celebrate nature with an afternoon of canoeing, food, volunteering and fun for the whole family.

Same Day Registration Question will be Put to Milwaukee Voters

When they go to the polls for the April 2 election, Milwaukee voters will get to weigh in on a controversial issue that's being debated in the state Capitol.

A local referendum on the spring ballot will read, "Should the state of Wisconsin continue to permit citizens to register to vote at the polls on Election Day?" Alderman Hines co-sponsored the measure, along with lead sponsor Alderwoman Milele A. Coggins and Aldermen Ashanti Hamilton, Robert J. Bauman, Willie C. Wade, Nik Kovac, José G. Pérez, Tony Zielinski and Joe Davis, Sr.

"I am very pleased that the question of same day registration will go before Milwaukee voters on April 2," Alderman Hines said.

Same day registration has been in place in the State of Wisconsin since 1974. There were more than 54,000 same day registrations in the City of Milwaukee for the November 6, 2012 Presidential Election. That represents nearly 20% of all Milwaukee voters.



Foreclosure Help for Homeowners

The City of Milwaukee is committed to helping our neighborhoods remain healthy for generations to come. We are coordinating with various organizations, government agencies and private lenders, and reaching out to homeowners facing foreclosure. For access to more resources, visit www.milwaukeehousinghelp.org.

The Common Council voted to fund a new foreclosure mediation program through the Department of City Development (DCD). The program offers legal aid to homeowners facing foreclosure and helps them negotiate solutions with their lender. Also, neighbors should report problems with boarded up houses to the Department of Neighborhood Services. Call (414) 286-2268 with the address of the property in question or visit www.milwaukee.gov/dns for more information. DCD also provides programs like the Buy in Your Neighborhood program and other stabilization options.



Find out more online!

For more information go to www.milwaukee.gov/dcd

The following organizations also offer foreclosure solutions:

Select Milwaukee

(414) 562-5070 • info@selectmilwaukee.org
www.selectmilwaukee.org

Neighborhood Stabilization Project

nspinfo@milwaukee.gov • www.milwaukee.gov/NeighborhoodStabilizationProgram.htm

Take Root Milwaukee

(414) 921-4149 • www.takerootmilwaukee.com

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 Hines said. "Continued responsibility and austerity are key to maintaining the city's fiscal health in the years ahead and maintaining a level of service consistent with other communities."

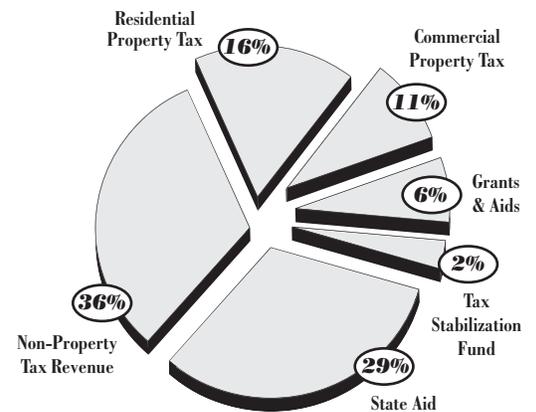
The Common Council approved changes to the Mayor's proposed budget that increase the amount of overtime funding available to the Milwaukee Police Department by \$350,000. And with the urban forestry division facing a backload of tree stumps in need of removal and replacement, Common Council members voted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

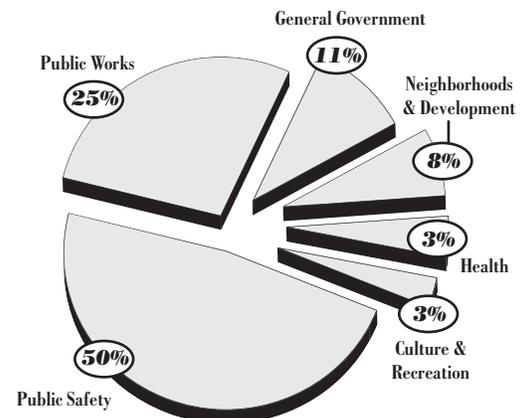
"Very simply, this budget offers Milwaukee residents a little more for their tax dollar, without increasing the financial burden on hardworking families," Alderman Hines said.

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. Questions can be directed to Heather Aschoff, MPS volunteer coordinator, at (414) 773-9823, or Dr. Kenneth Harris, Jr., at (414)-737-3939.

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 Hines 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, Peace for Change Alliance, Inc., Pitts Funeral Home, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a number of faith-based partners.

Safe Sleep for Your Baby

In Milwaukee, around 20% of infant mortality is attributable to a combination of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy (SUDI). Of these deaths, the majority die in an unsafe sleep environment.

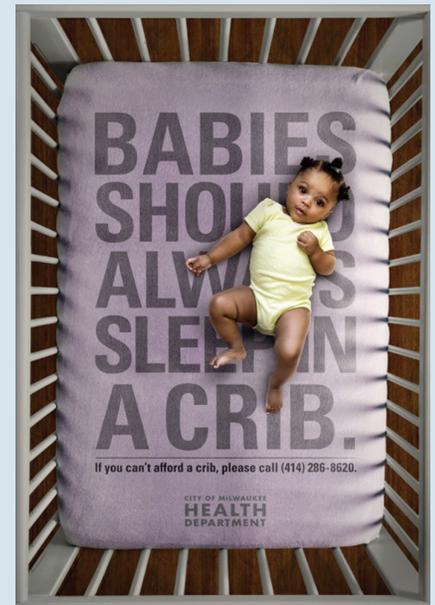
The City of Milwaukee Health Department strongly advises parents NOT to share a bed with their infant. This is based on an American Academy of Pediatrics 2011 Policy Statement which states that the risk of SIDS is reduced when the infant sleeps in the same room as the mother, but the risk is increased when infants share a bed with parents or anyone else.

The American Academy of Pediatrics Task Force has found that rates of bed-sharing are increasing, especially as breastfeeding is encouraged. But the conclusion of the task force is that bed-sharing, as practiced in the U.S. and other Western countries, is more hazardous than the infant sleeping on a separate sleep surface. It is recommended that infants not share a bed with adults. Infants may be brought into bed for nursing or comforting, but should be returned to their own safe space to sleep when the parent is ready to return to sleep.

Safe Sleep Guidelines

Parents should:

- Put the baby to sleep on his or her back. Babies who sleep on their backs are safer.
- Provide a separate but nearby sleeping environment. Babies can share a room with their parents, but not a bed. The risk of SIDS is reduced when the infant sleeps in the same room as the mother.
- Never put a baby to sleep on a couch or a chair. A crib, bassinet or cradle that conforms to safety standards is recommended.
- Make sure that the only item in the crib is a mattress, covered by a tight-fitting sheet. Bumper pads, blankets or toys can all be hazardous.
- Never lay a baby down on or next to a pillow. Pillows are extremely dangerous for infants as they can cause suffocation.
- Never use infant sleep positioners. The FDA says there have been 12 known deaths associated with these products.
- Dress the baby in a one-piece sleeper to keep them warm in winter.
- Keep the room at a temperature that is comfortable for the whole family. But the house should not be too warm.
- Never smoke in a house where an infant or child lives.



If you can't afford a crib, please call:
(414) 286-8620

Milwaukee's Chronic Nuisance Property Code

Property where nuisance activity occurs regularly is a blight on the whole neighborhood. The nuisances frighten away law abiding residents, discourage reinvestment and consume police and other city services. Responsible property owners can and usually do take steps to discourage those that cause such behaviors from occupying their buildings.

The City of Milwaukee's Chronic Nuisance Property Code says to property owners, in effect, "If you do not take action to try to stop these nuisances from recurring, then you will pay the cost of the city services that must respond to your building." Passed into law in early 2001, the code is having an effect on reducing the problems where it has been used.

When the Milwaukee Police Department determines that three or more nuisance activities have occurred at a property within a 30-day period, or two drug-dealing, firearms, violent or other serious crimes occur within a one-year period, MPD can notify the owner and request a plan to stop it from continuing. If the owner does not respond or fails to carry out the plan, the cost of all future MPD services related to responding to nuisance activities at the property will be placed on the owner's tax bill by the Department of Neighborhood Services. Citations up to \$5,000 per nuisance activity may be issued after a property owner is billed three times for enforcement costs.

There are 20 nuisance activities listed in the code, including but not limited to loud music, loitering, illegal drug activity, harassment, disorderly conduct, battery, indecent exposure, prostitution, loitering, littering, keeping animals that disturb the peace and discharge of a firearm. A complete list is found in 80-10-2 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances.

If you suspect that nuisance activity is occurring on a property in your neighborhood, your first course of action may be to simply ask the property owner to do something about it. Many rental property owners' names, addresses and telephone numbers are listed on the DNS web site (www.milwaukee.gov/dnsnss) at Property Data.

In more serious cases, neighbors should call **(414) 933-4444** to report the nuisance. Callers are urged to be as detailed as possible. MPD tracks repeated calls for service and can use this information to determine whether or not the Chronic Nuisance Property Code was violated.

You should also keep a log of when the nuisance activities occur (time, date, location, description), and include the name(s) of everyone you called (owner, MPD, etc.). Your observations may help the MPD build their case, if the property has reported calls. You can contact the community liaison officer in your police district for further information.

The MPD reports a high degree of success in using the ordinance to combat nuisance activity. When property owners are presented with credible evidence of illegal activities on their property, most cooperate to prevent its recurrence. Rental property where such activities do not occur is more profitable, so both the owner and the neighborhood benefit in the long run.

Did You Know That..

- The Milwaukee Police Department is taking applications for police dispatchers. For more information, please contact La'Neka S. Horton, recruiter for the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission, at **(414) 286-3340**.
- If you see graffiti around your neighborhood or in the city, please report it at www.milwaukee.gov/AntiGraffiti. You can also email concerns to graffiti@milwaukee.gov. Let's help clean up the City of Milwaukee.
- If you have concerns regarding a licensed establishment, send your concerns to the License Division at license@milwaukee.gov.
- If you have scheduled community and neighborhood meetings, please forward the meeting information to President Hines at whines@milwaukee.gov.

Tax Tips for Milwaukee Residents

Tax filing season is in full swing, and it is important for Milwaukee residents to take advantage of every tax credit and deduction that is available to them. Two important but often underused tax credits are the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Homestead Tax Credit.

The EITC is available for both state and federal tax filings, and can help supplement the income of low- to moderate-income individuals and families. When EITC exceeds the amount of taxes owed, it results in a tax refund to those who claim and qualify for the credit. The maximum federal credit amount for tax year 2012 is \$5,891; the average EITC claimed last year was around \$2,200.

Last year, around 383,000 families in Wisconsin received approximately \$790 million in EITC, with an average amount of \$2,062. In Milwaukee County alone, some 92,000 families received approximately \$230 million in EITC, with an average amount of \$2,483.

The Homestead Credit is a tool to deliver property tax relief to low- and moderate-income homeowners and renters in Wisconsin. A credit of up to \$1,168 is available to qualifying individuals and families who earn less than \$24,680 per year.



Find out more online!

The City of Milwaukee is encouraging residents to keep these credits in mind when filing tax returns.

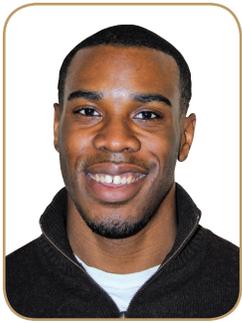
Please contact:

Internal Revenue Service
www.irs.gov

Wisconsin Department of Revenue
www.revenue.wi.gov

Or contact your local tax professional for additional information.

Meet Alderman Hines's Legislative Assistant



Born and raised in Milwaukee, Nyerere Davidson is the newest member of Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.'s staff, serving as the legislative assistant for the 15th Aldermanic District.

The younger of two siblings, Nyerere attended Rufus King High School (graduated in 2003), and received a bachelor's degree in public relations from Florida A&M University in

Tallahassee, Fla. Nyerere's professional background is in public relations, social media and journalism, and he has worked in corporate communications, nonprofit and agency public relations. He currently attends Marquette University within the M.A. program in Public Relations and Advertising. He is a member of several professional organizations including Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Black Public Relations Society – Milwaukee Chapter (executive board member – treasurer) and Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals.

Some of Nyerere's hobbies include singing and listening to music, playing tennis, exercising, traveling and networking with new people.

Nyerere is prepared and willing to help you in any way he is able. You can reach him at 286-3771.



HinesHERALD

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15th Aldermanic District

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President Hines

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200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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PROJECT CLEAN & GREEN

The citywide spring clean up program starts April 15 and ends June 4. This is your opportunity to throw out excess trash and debris at no extra cost.

To learn more, visit the Department of Public Works webpage at: www.city.milwaukee.gov/mpw.



United Sports Club Summer Tennis Camp

June 24 - August 2

North Division High School
211 W. Center St.

For additional information contact
(414) 475-8581

Tennis Camps for youth ages 4-18yrs

Practice Schedules Per Age Group

4-5yrs

Monday and Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 9:55 a.m.

6-12yrs

Monday or Wednesday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Tuesday or Thursday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

13-18yrs

Monday-Friday
1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

