

ALDERMAN ASHANTI
HAMILTON200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-2228 | www.milwaukee.gov/district1 | ahamil@milwaukee.gov

SUMMER 14

Dear 1st District Residents,

This spring, when I was appointed the co-chair of Milwaukee's new Black Male Achievement Advisory Council, I shared with you the reasons that I personally believe that we, as a city, cannot wait to begin making changes that will help address the disparities faced by many residents of Milwaukee. Sadly, we see regular reminders of these disparities, sometimes in the form of senseless acts of violence and crime.

In keeping my word, I have been working actively to address many of the issues that affect our community, and I am pleased to be able to provide you with this update.

Of course, the antithesis of disparity is opportunity. Much of my work in the last year has centered on creating opportunities for residents of our city to gain access to education, training and employment opportunities through legislation like the Milwaukee Jobs Act, the Dombrowski Landscape Training Initiative and several exciting transitional jobs programs. I'm happy to report that as a result, residents of our city have found or will be finding work in many areas, including patching the city's roads, city landscaping and building a new jewel of the city's skyline. Pages two and three of this newsletter offer more details on these vital programs.

But it's important that we don't lose sight of the bigger picture. This fall, a major election will help shape the future of our state and our nation, and it is critical that every member of our community has his or her vote counted. Inset in this newsletter, you can find a helpful map that will show you exactly where to vote on November 4, how to register to vote and how you can vote early in Milwaukee. Please hang it on your refrigerator as a reminder to make your voice heard!

And while I work every day at City Hall to create a more equitable, vibrant city, every resident can do the same in his or her neighborhood. On pages six and seven of this newsletter, you can learn how one special young woman is making a difference and how you can get involved yourself.

As we continue to change lives here in the great City of Milwaukee, it's everyone's job to get informed, get active and get involved. If there's ever anything I can do as your Common Council representative to help you make a difference, don't hesitate to contact my office at ahamil@milwaukee.gov or 286-2228. Because we cannot wait any longer, Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

Ashanti Hamilton
Alderman, 1st District

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS****Chair**

- Judiciary and Legislation Committee

Co-Chair

- Black Male Achievement Advisory Council

President

- Library Board

Member

- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Wisconsin Center District Board of Directors

View meetings at:

milwaukee.gov/citychannel

Follow us on Twitter @MKE_CC, @Cityofmilwaukee and @MKE_TV for City of Milwaukee Common Council and City Clerk news, info and updates.

**One Call, That's All**

That one number can connect you with 21 departments, 8,800 employees and hundreds of city services, ranging from building permits to parking permission to library hours to garbage pickups. Alderman Hamilton says the city continues to seek ways to improve communications with residents, and this one-stop number for city services makes it even easier to find the right department and person to handle your complaint or request. **Of course you can always call Alderman Hamilton's office at 286-2228.**

Black Male Achievement Advisory Council Seeks Solutions >



Alderman Hamilton, Mayor Tom Barrett and other members of the BMAAC hear from community members seeking solutions to the city's problems with violence.

This spring, Alderman Hamilton assumed the co-chairmanship of the Milwaukee Black Male Achievement Advisory Council. This dedicated group of local people is committed to addressing the disparities faced by black men and boys in the Milwaukee community, and the negative outcomes that result.

"I am humbled by and grateful for the trust my colleagues on the Common Council have placed in me, and taken aback by the magnitude of the task at hand," Alderman Hamilton said. "Nonetheless, this is a mission with which I have considerable experience, and to which I am ready

and eager to pledge my effort. I take the reins of the initiative from my friend and colleague Alderman Joe Davis, Sr., under whose leadership the BMAAC first got off the ground."

Launched with the support of a National League of Cities technical assistance grant, the BMAAC is charged by the NLC with identifying local challenges and opportunities in the plight of black men and boys in Milwaukee, exploring policies and strategies that have the potential to make an impact and developing mechanisms to evaluate and sustain progress over time.

As a part of Milwaukee's participation in the program, city officials have attended conferences with leaders from all over the country to compare strategies and identify successes. Alderman Hamilton and Mayor Tom Barrett, the co-chair of BMAAC, also hosted a meeting of the council in Garden Homes Square Park during which members of the community worked together in search of solutions to a rising tide of violence in the city.

To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/bma. ■

REPORT FRAUD

It is everyone's job to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. If you suspect or witness any fraud, waste or abuse against City of Milwaukee resources, **TAKE ACTION** and **REPORT IT** to the Fraud Hotline at 286-3440, via email (hotline@milwaukee.gov), or online. See milwaukee.gov/comptroller.

Tips may be made anonymously. The Fraud Hotline ensures confidentiality and will not share contact information without consent.

Simply call 211 to get help with life.
Cell: (414) 773-0211
Free: (866) 211-3380
United Way of greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

Jobs Available Raising New Tower Downtown >

Work is set to begin on a new high-rise office tower downtown that will reshape the city skyline, and City of Milwaukee residents will play a crucial role in building it.

As part of a deal negotiated with the Milwaukee Common Council, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership will help Northwestern Mutual meet an objective in which 40% of the jobs on the site will go to residents of the City of Milwaukee. In addition, the program has a stated goal of connecting 350 people to a career in the construction trades and placing up to 150 workers on the job site.

Overall, the project is expected to create 1,000 construction jobs. Northwestern Mutual is building the 32-story, 550-foot tower next to its historic 1914 headquarters.

In order to connect residents with job and career opportunities on the project, Alderman Hamilton held a job fair at the School for Career and Technical Education (formerly Custer High School). **To learn more, call WTRP/Big Step at (414) 342-9787. ■**



Second Chances Working for Milwaukee >

Dozens of people trying to make a career for themselves after periods of unemployment or incarceration are finding second chances working for the City of Milwaukee through new transitional jobs programs.

One such program, sponsored by Alderman Hamilton and approved this spring, created 25 positions to supplement Department of Public Works efforts to patch potholes and repair roads. In the program, which is administered by United Migrant Opportunity Services, participants earn a living wage of \$10.10 an hour working for a limited term with the city and gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

“For people who are down on their luck, sometimes all that’s needed is for one employer to give them a chance,” Alderman Hamilton said. “With the skills and experience these temporary employees will earn, they will be better qualified for permanent jobs that open up with the city or with private employers.”

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Another program, the Dombrowski Landscape Training Initiative, focused on landscape maintenance of city-owned foreclosed and vacant properties. Thirty low-income participants earned valuable job skills and a number of certifications over the course of the 17-week program, all while cleaning up blight in urban neighborhoods. The program was made possible by the bequest of the late Department of Public Works employee, David John Dombrowski.

And under the Milwaukee Jobs Act, of which Alderman Hamilton was the primary sponsor, \$180,000 was allocated to the transitional jobs Garage Demolition Program. ■

★ ★ ★ VOTE ON NOVEMBER 4TH! ★ ★ ★

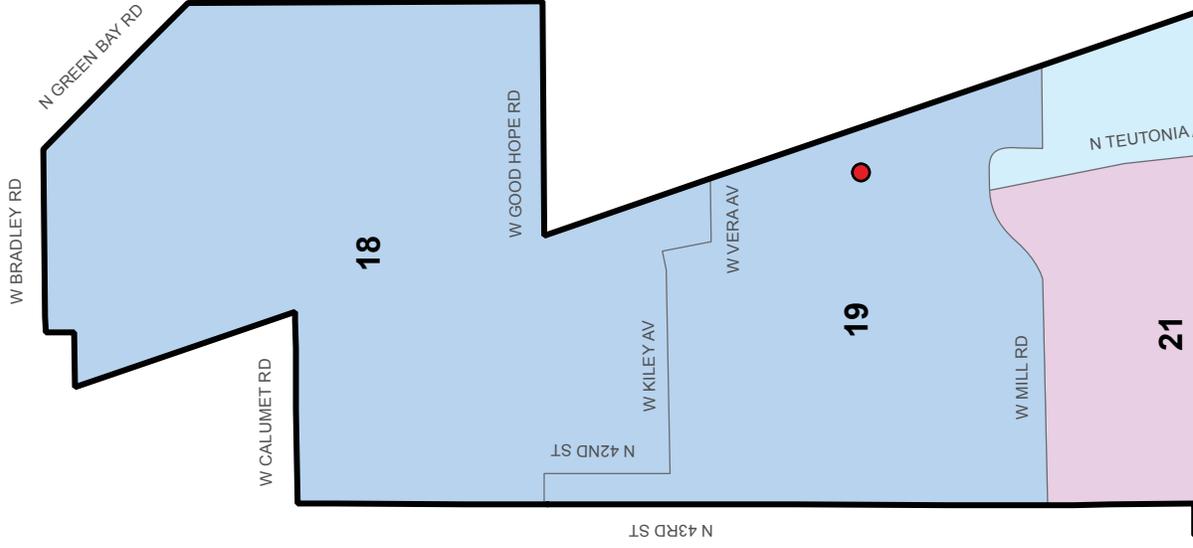
REGISTER to VOTE

You must be registered at your current address in order to vote. Registrants must provide proof of residence in the form of a valid state-issued ID, a real estate tax bill, a utility bill, a current rental lease or other approved forms. **Visit milwaukee.gov/vote for a complete list, and for a register-by-mail form.**

You can register in person at any Milwaukee Public Library. They can provide voter registration applications and registrars to assist you with completing the voter registration process during regular hours of operation.

Registration by mail and at **Milwaukee Public Libraries** ends 20 days prior to each election. Before or after that date, you can also register in person at the Election Commission offices, Room 501 of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.

You may also register and vote at your voting site on any Election Day. Make sure to bring your registration materials with you.



VOTE EARLY or ABSENTEE

There are two ways to vote an absentee ballot before any election:

You can vote **“in-person absentee”** by casting your ballot at City Hall before the election. In-person absentee voting begins the third Monday before each election and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before each election. Contact the Election Commission for location and hours.

You can vote **absentee by mail**, where you submit a request for an absentee ballot, a ballot is mailed to you and you vote and mail back your absentee ballot in a postage-paid reply envelope. Requests to receive an absentee ballot by mail must be received by 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before an election. Absentee ballots should be postmarked by election day.

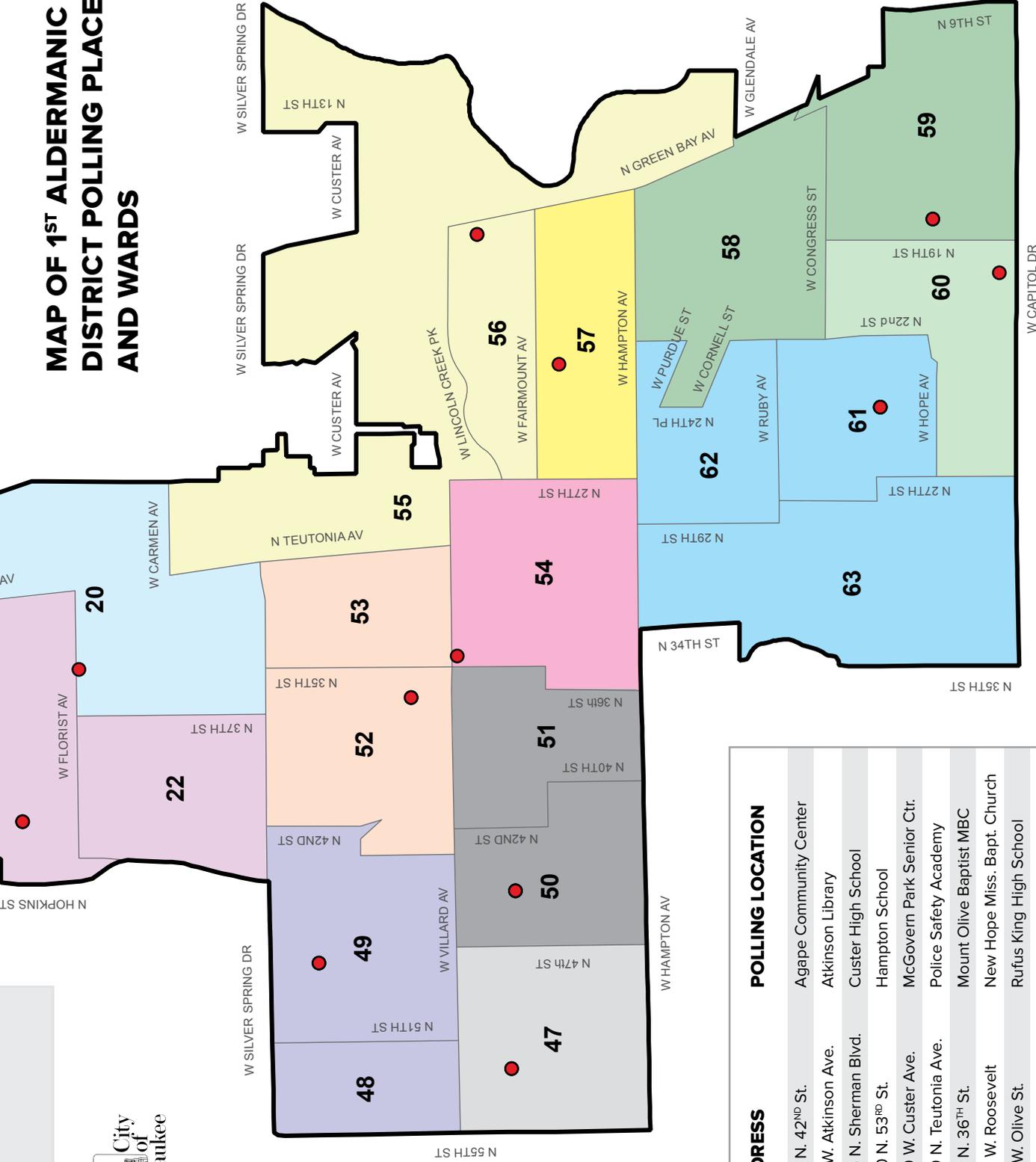
MORE INFORMATION

For more voting information, contact the Milwaukee Election Commission.

**milwaukee.gov/election
286-3491**



MAP OF 1ST ALDERMANIC DISTRICT POLLING PLACES AND WARDS



WARD(S)	ADDRESS	POLLING LOCATION
21, 22	6100 N. 42 ND St.	Agape Community Center
60	960 W. Atkinson Ave.	Atkinson Library
50, 51	5075 N. Sherman Blvd.	Custer High School
47	5000 N. 53 RD St.	Hampton School
48, 49	4500 W. Custer Ave.	McGovern Park Senior Ctr.
18, 19	6680 N. Teutonia Ave.	Police Safety Academy
52, 53	5277 N. 36 TH St.	Mount Olive Baptist MBC
61, 62, 63	2433 W. Roosevelt	New Hope Miss. Bapt. Church
58, 59	1801 W. Olive St.	Rufus King High School
57	4950 N. 24 TH St.	Rufus King Middle School
55, 56	5131 N. Green Bay Ave.	Silver Spring School
20	5996 N. 35 TH St.	Thurston Woods School
54	5190 N. 35 TH St.	Villard Square Library

Prepared by the City of Milwaukee Legislative Reference Bureau, 154317.dgn, 7-30-14, JDO.

● = POLLING LOCATION

Alderman Hamilton Elected to League of Wisconsin Municipalities Board

Alderman Hamilton was recently selected to join the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Board of Directors, and will serve a two-year term through 2016.

League of Wisconsin Municipalities Executive Director Jerry Deschane welcomed Alderman Hamilton, saying, "Ashanti is focused on education, poverty and social issues, and has a strong commitment to home rule, which is essential for communities to face the challenges they face. His commitment to his community and his experience with the legislative process make him a great addition to the League's leadership team."

The League of Wisconsin Municipalities is a voluntary, nonprofit and nonpartisan association of Wisconsin cities and villages working to advance municipal government. First established in 1898, the League's membership consists of 190 cities and 393 villages. The League is hosting its 116th annual conference in October, and Alderman Hamilton plans to be in attendance.

"I'm proud and humbled to have the honor of representing my constituents in Milwaukee as a delegate to a group that helps inform policy statewide," Alderman Hamilton said. "The League of Wisconsin Municipalities has been doing great work for more than a century, and I'm excited to get to work."

To learn more about the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, visit lwm-info.org. ■



Strong Neighborhoods Plan Targets Foreclosure Problems

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan, a centerpiece of Mayor Tom Barrett's 2014 budget, provides \$11.8 million to redouble city efforts to reduce the number and mitigate the impacts of tax-foreclosed properties that the city owns.

The Department of City Development is responsible for managing and marketing that inventory. Alderman Hamilton was a sponsor of the budget item that initiated the program. DCD staffers are now moving forward on many fronts to implement the Strong Neighborhoods Plan, and the number of personnel devoted to these tasks is growing.

The current inventory of tax-foreclosed buildings is nearly 1,500. Real estate staff members handle the intake of tax-foreclosed properties, inspecting them, negotiating leases with tenants living in units at the time of foreclosure, arranging to re-key and board vacant properties, referring some properties for demolition and marketing the inventory that can be redeveloped.

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan funds this work, along with several new programs: a rent-to-own initiative that helps tenants purchase the houses in which they live; a pilot program that allows licensed real estate brokers to market properties; new loan and grant programs to encourage the purchase and renovation of foreclosed properties; an artistic board-up program that involves young people in creating visual art on boarded properties; and a vacant lot beautification effort. Housing development and preservation staff also are involved in these initiatives.

To learn more, visit the DCD website at milwaukee.gov/cityrealestate. ■

More Than 500 Kids Waiting for a Big Brother or Sister >

In Milwaukee, adult volunteers are needed for the growing number of children ages 6 to 15 who are waiting for a Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) mentor. The majority of waiting children are boys in need of Big Brothers.

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton said more than 500 children are waiting for a Big Brother or Big Sister in Milwaukee, including dozens who live in the 1st Aldermanic District. “Most of us were fortunate to have loving and devoted parents who taught us how to live, and who spent time with us each and every day,” he said. “Today, that’s not always the case, and many boys especially are in need of positive male mentors.”

Amy Chionchio, president and CEO of BBBS of Metro Milwaukee, said, “The need for volunteers, especially males, is critical. Your generous gift of mentoring a child can help increase their ability to succeed in school, gain greater self-confidence, make positive choices and change their lives for the better, forever.”

In the Community-based Mentoring Program, BBBS volunteers mentor children one-on-one, three to four times a month, and schedule outings based on the availability of the volunteer. Activities may include going to the park, visiting a local museum, working on homework, attending sporting events, or participating in one of the group’s 80 planned and staffed events



Alderman Hamilton speaks to a group of Big Brothers Big Sisters matches at Civics in Action Night at Milwaukee City Hall. The group also met the Mayor, toured the building and learned how the Common Council passes laws in an interactive demo.

throughout the year. Men and women may volunteer individually or as a couple. The minimum age for volunteers is 21.

In 2013, BBBS of Metro Milwaukee served approximately 1,300 children in Milwaukee and Waukesha counties.

For more information, contact BBBS of Metro Milwaukee at (414) 258-4778 or online at bbbsmilwaukee.org. ■

Meet the 1st District Youth Council Representative Abena May >

Abena is a junior at Milwaukee Lutheran High School. She is currently serving her second term as representative of the 1st Aldermanic District on the Milwaukee Youth Council. She loves her position and feels she is doing her part to better the city. She also enjoys the political experience, and is overjoyed at the opportunity to be a voice for youth in Milwaukee.

Known for her enthusiastic outlook on the council, Abena applies this enthusiasm toward the other organizations with which she involves herself. These organizations are Top Teens of America (where she stands as the sergeant at arms), the Teen Advisory Board (on which she served as the vice president), Milwaukee Lutheran Student Council and Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast (where she serves as one of eight national delegates and a GSWISE Teen Board Member).

Abena plans to go to college and study law. She thanks her family, friends and loved ones for helping her achieve what she has so far, especially her mother, who has served as a great role model in Abena’s life. She also gives all thanks to God for blessing and keeping her.

The City of Milwaukee Youth Council is a diverse group of young leaders who represent the young people in their aldermanic districts. They meet with leaders like the Mayor, Common Council, School Superintendent, business owners and community groups to advocate on behalf of the city’s youth.

To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/youthcouncil. ■



DISTRICT 1

ALDERMAN ASHANTI HAMILTON



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Alderman, 1st District
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Alderman Hamilton proudly delivered the commencement address to the Riverside University High School graduating class of 2014. As a proud alumnus of Riverside, Alderman Hamilton said it was an honor to speak to a class full of future leaders and community members at the U.S. Cellular Arena, and encouraged graduates to go out into the world and work to create a more diverse, equitable society.

Schedule a Neighborhood Walkthrough for Your Area



Alderman Hamilton has been making a series of 1st Aldermanic District neighborhood walkthroughs to learn about residents' concerns and to see conditions firsthand. He is typically accompanied by police officers, inspectors and officials from the Department of Neighborhood Services and the Department of Public Works and other city staffers. Please join the alderman when he comes to your area. ■

If you would like Alderman Hamilton to come to your block or neighborhood, please call his office at 286-2228 to request a walkthrough.