

ALDERMAN JOE
DUDZIK

200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-3768 | www.milwaukee.gov/district11 | jdudzi@milwaukee.gov

WINTER 15

Hello Neighbors,

The downtown streetcar project and a new \$500-\$600 million downtown arena with potentially public funding are two of the largest proposed projects the City of Milwaukee has seen in years. In fact, some are calling these potential plans “transformational” for the city and the future of downtown.

No matter what people call them, both projects carry price tags that are extremely high, and in 2015 it is likely the Common Council will be making some important decisions about each. In that vein, I am asking for your opinions in the **postage-free return survey postcard** on page 4. Please take a moment to fill out the brief survey, and then send the card back to me (at no charge). Your input on these projects is VERY important to me!

In this edition of my newsletter, you will also find information about the recently approved 2015 city budget, a program that helps residents get their sidewalks fixed (at no charge) and other helpful articles.

Please have a safe and enjoyable 2015. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Joe Dudzik
Alderman, 11th District



SIGN UP FOR CITY REAL ESTATE NEWS

Sign up for E-notify to receive the monthly City Real Estate E-newsletter and be the first to know when new properties are listed on our website. Subscribe to “City-Owned Homes” under New Property Sales Listings. **To sign up, go to milwaukee.gov/enotify.**

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Vice-Chair

- Finance and Personnel Committee

Member

- Public Safety Committee

View meetings online:

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.

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 at hotline@milwaukee.gov, or online at www.milwaukee.gov/comptroller.

Tips may be made anonymously.

The Fraud Hotline ensures confidentiality and will not share contact information without consent.

S. 27th Street Project Finish Delayed Until Spring >

A regional shortage of cement—coupled with a near-record cold month of November – has delayed the completion of the S. 27th Street reconstruction project until spring 2015, Alderman Dudzik said.

All lanes in the project zone are open, thanks to a temporary asphalt surface that will remain in place until cement can be poured in the spring, Alderman Dudzik said. “As a former DPW worker, I am well aware of the challenges that can come with our frigid temperatures in November, and the lack of available cement was also a critical issue here,” he said.

According to Alderman Dudzik, once the frost is gone next spring, the asphalt will be ripped out and a concrete surface will be installed. He said the DOT expects the project to be completed by the end of July 2015. ■



Jobs Available Raising New Tower Downtown >

Work is underway 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 percent of the jobs on the site will go to residents of the City of Milwaukee.



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.

To learn about job opportunities on the NWM construction site, call WRTP/Big Step at (414) 342-9787. ■

Strong Neighborhoods Plan Targets Foreclosure Problems >

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan redoubles city efforts to reduce the number and mitigate the impacts of tax-foreclosed properties that the city owns.

“Foreclosures drive down Milwaukee property values and increase the share of taxes that each homeowner pays,” Alderman Dudzik said. “This problem affects every neighborhood in the city, but with a citywide approach, we can begin to repair the damage.”

In its first year, the SNP has reduced the inventory of tax-foreclosed homes from a peak of more than 1,500 to its current 1,100. Real estate staff members handle the intake of tax-foreclosed properties by 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.

SNP funds this work, along with several new programs: a rent-to-own initiative that helps tenants purchase the houses in which they live; a program that allows licensed real estate brokers to market properties; new loan and grant programs to encourage the purchase and renovation of foreclosed properties; the artistic board-up program that involves young people in creating visual art on boarded properties; and a vacant lot beautification effort.

Alderman Dudzik said he supports the increased focus on neighborhoods where people live instead of commercial strips. “Our commercial corridors cannot succeed if our neighborhoods are falling behind and struggling,” he said.

In 2015, the Department of City Development expects to shift emphasis from demolishing the most deteriorated houses to preserving the remaining stock.

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



Police and Fire Personnel Seeing Regular Pay Hikes ➤

Salaries for sworn Police and Fire personnel (MPSO, MPA, Local 215) increased more than 12 percent from 2007 to 2012 (labor contracts for 2013-14 have not yet been settled). The actual percent increase for individual labor groups is likely higher, depending upon the combination of base salary increases to which percentage increases effective on different pay periods were added. For example, MPA base salaries for 2012 were increased by \$575, to which an increase of 2.2 percent was added in pay period 26, 2011, to which an increase of 1.35 percent was added in pay period 14, 2012.

Adjustments to the salaries of city “management” employees totaled 6.5 percent since 2007, excluding the impact of furloughs and any step increases that occurred during the period. Salary adjustments of 2 percent were made in 2007 and 2008, 1.5 percent in 2013 and 1.0 percent in 2014.

A police officer earning a salary of \$43,839 in 2007 (the biweekly step 1 base salary effective pp1, 2007) earned a salary of \$49,269 as of pp14, 2012, a 12.3 percent increase for the period based on the salary adjustments specified in the table, excluding the impact of furloughs and any step increases. ■

YEAR	POLICE	FIRE
2007	3.0%	3.0%
2008	3.25%	3.0%
2009	\$359 + 3.0%	\$359 + 3.0%
2010	0%	0%
2011	0%	\$325
2012	575 + 2.2% (PP 26, 2011) + 1.35% (PP 14, 2012)	2.95 (PP 26, 2011) + .35% (PP 14, 2012)

Source : Department of Employee Relations

Toughened Nuisance Property Measure in Place ➤

Alderman Dudzik supported a successful ordinance that makes it easier for the police department and the city to declare a problem property as a public nuisance.

Prior to the approval of the ordinance, whenever the chief of police determined that the police department had responded to three or more nuisance activities at a premises on separate days during a 30-day period, or that the police department responded to two or more nuisances of certain types occurring at a premises within one year, the chief could notify the premises owner or other responsible party in writing that the premises is a nuisance.

Under the new ordinance, each separate and distinct incident of nuisance activity occurring at a premises on a single day is now considered a separate nuisance infraction. In addition, under the new ordinance, properties where numerous problems are occurring will be targeted and required to develop an abatement plan of action that is submitted for review to the pertinent Milwaukee police district captain and the City Attorney’s Office. Failure to develop and follow the abatement plan will result in administrative penalties for police calls for service to the property. If problems persist, the property faces being

placed on “chronic nuisance status” which could result in fines to the property owner of \$3,000 to \$5,000.

According to Alderman Dudzik, in most cases the nuisance activities at a property can be rectified through eviction proceedings. However, it is critical that neighbors correctly record nuisance activities when observed – either using a notebook or computer entry stating the date and time of the activity.



It is also critical for neighbors to make sure they have the correct address of the nuisance property. Providing a reference to “the house across the street,” or “the gray house near the corner,” is simply not enough, the alderman said. ■

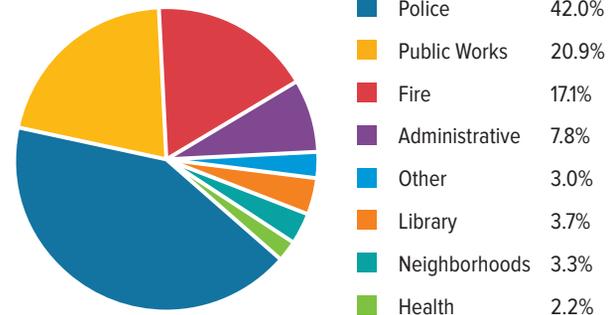
Common Council Finds Opportunities for Efficiencies in 2015 Approved Budget

In reviewing the mayor’s 2015 city budget, the Common Council signed off on an increase in transitional jobs positions that will be offered by the Department of Public Works in the year ahead. Focused on providing work and fostering jobs skills for unemployed residents, the transitional jobs program will put 135 people to work in landscaping, road repair and other areas next year—an expansion from the initial group of 100 participants in 2014.

Over the course of six weeks, council members offered more than 40 amendments to the mayor’s budget, of which 13 were adopted. These include:

- Transferring \$3.5 million from the local streets program to the High-Impact paving program. The popular repaving initiative creates a new surface on high-traffic roads in the span of several days, extending their useful life and addressing residents’ pothole complaints. Alderman Dudzik voted “no” on this amendment.
- Eliminating plans to build a Fire Department Repair Shop for \$2.9 million and remodel the eighth floor of City Hall for \$3.1 million. These cuts will reduce new borrowing by \$3.1 million, while channeling an additional \$1.5 million to the High Impact paving program, increasing funding for the STRONG Homes loan program by \$500,000 and adding \$1 million to the Rental Rehabilitation Program capital account. Alderman Dudzik voted “no” on this amendment.

Tax Levy-Funded Operating Budget: By Department



The 2015 budget levies \$256,767,059 million in property taxes, an increase of 1.2 percent from last year that will cost \$4.10 more in taxes for the owner of home valued at \$103,000—the median home value in the city. The approved levy comes in \$103,561 below the mayor’s initial proposed levy as a result of amendments made and efficiencies created by the Common Council. The total budget approved by the council is \$1.51 billion, a decrease of \$2.84 million from the budget proposed by the mayor.

Also included in the budget is a modest \$16.18 increase in the fees homeowners pay for services including solid waste, snow and ice control, sewer and storm sewer. Alderman Dudzik also voted against these increases.

How to Contact Ald. Dudzik

Write:

Alderman Joe Dudzik
City Hall, Room 205
200 E Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Email:

jdudzi@milwaukee.gov

Call:

414.286.2221

More Info on the Web:

www.milwaukee.gov/district11



Dear Neighbor:

The City of Milwaukee is facing some major downtown projects that could involve taxpayer dollars and will have potentially major impacts on the city for years to come. I am very interested to know what you think about these projects, and I greatly appreciate your input on them!

Thank you,
Joe Dudzik

- Do you support the proposed downtown streetcar? Yes No
- Do you support public funding for a new downtown arena? Yes No

Comments (if you want to share):

Remember New Garbage and Recycling Set-out Policy

A significant change proposed by the Mayor and approved by the Common Council as part of the 2014 city budget requires residents with driveways to roll their own carts out to the street during the winter.

The new policy offers residents year-round guaranteed collection dates while also saving significant city taxpayer dollars. It allows crews to more quickly and efficiently complete their routes, and it also reduces injuries to workers from slips and falls on icy driveways and walks.

NOTE: Residential households with cart collection received garbage cart tags in March 2014 with designated collection dates through April 2, 2015. Residents can check online (www.city.milwaukee.gov/mpw) to see their next scheduled garbage collection day.

Most recycling routes (except automated and twice monthly) reverted to non-guaranteed winter schedules on December 8, 2014, and crews will retrieve the recycling carts from their storage location.

Residents can check online to see their next estimated (2 – 3 day window) recycling collection date. ■



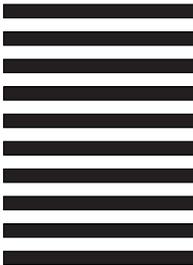
There is NO garbage or recycling collection on the following city holidays:

- **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
Monday — January 19, 2015
- **Good Friday**
Friday — April 3, 2015

For more information on your next garbage and recycling collection days, go to milwaukee.gov/mpw or call 286-CITY.



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SIDEWALK DAMAGED?

Residents can request city review of damaged sidewalk squares by calling the Unified Call Center at 286-CITY(2489). The requests will be put on a list and work will be done as budgeted funds allow.

Sidewalks that have been damaged by tree roots will typically be replaced at no charge. If additional work is needed, a portion of the cost is assessed to the owner. The bills for the work are sent to the owners at least two years after the work is done. The bill can be paid in full within 45 days or can be included on the owner's property tax bill, with interest included.



Joe Dudzik

Alderman, 11th District
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

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Wanted: Youth Council Member From the 11th District



The City of Milwaukee Youth Council seat for the 11th Aldermanic District is vacant, and Alderman Dudzik is looking for a committed young leader to serve. The candidate must be between the ages of 14-18 with the time, energy, and passion to work for change. Youth Council members must live in the City of Milwaukee.

Please contact Alderman Dudzik at 286-3768 (or email: jdudzi@milwaukee.gov) if you are interested in this important opportunity to serve our city.

Youth Council members represent young people in their aldermanic districts, and they regularly meet with leaders like the Mayor, Common Council, County Executive,

School Superintendent, city department heads, business owners and community groups to advocate for youth. In recent years members of the Youth Council have also traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet and exchange with members of Congress and other key federal officials.

Go to milwaukee.gov/YouthCouncil to learn more about the Youth Council.

The community is invited to attend all Youth Council meetings and most meetings are broadcast on the City Channel — Channel 25 on Time Warner Cable, Channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse and streaming online at milwaukee.gov/CityChannel. ■



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