

THE COGGS CONNECTION

ALDERWOMAN MILELE A. COGGS



200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-2994 | www.milwaukee.gov/district6 | mcoggs@milwaukee.gov

WINTER 15

Dear Neighbors,

The public process of putting together the financing plan for a new downtown arena for Milwaukee is now complete, with the Common Council's overall approval of the project – including amendments I crafted – on September 22 at City Hall.

I will be working to ensure that city residents are included in the project's positive job and economic ripple effects, and I will also be providing feedback on the design aspects of the project to ensure it is truly the world class development the city deserves.

In the budget for 2016, the council took a multifaceted approach to finding solutions for the public safety challenges many of our neighborhoods face. Financing for body worn cameras for police officers, safe zones, artist/resource houses, more police officers, and additional Compete Milwaukee workers were all things this council made certain were included in the 2016 budget.

Additionally, I sponsored the creation of a position for a Community Economic Development Director to assist in connecting residents with employment opportunities anticipated as a result of the more than \$3 billion of proposed development in downtown alone.

In this edition of my newsletter, you can also find out about the positive job news coming from the Northwestern Mutual downtown headquarters project (page 6), find out more about the winner of the 7th annual Freedom Scholarship Essay Contest (page 2), get introduced to our 6th District summer intern (page 2), and learn more about the success of the Strong Neighborhoods Plan (page 7).

Please contact me directly if you have ideas to help improve the quality of life in the district, or if you have issues or concerns to share.

Have a safe and happy fall.

Peace, Love, and Justice,

Milele A. Coggs
Alderwoman, 6th District



Alderwoman Coggs and other officials celebrated the opening of the ARTery path, an extension to the Beerline Trail that connects the Harambee and Riverwest neighborhoods. The project added two-thirds of a mile to the existing trail, extending an asphalt path for running or biking from N. Richards Street across the railroad bridge over W. Capitol Drive.

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Chair

- City Information Management Committee

Vice Chair

- Licenses Committee
- Finance and Personnel Committee

Member

- Public Safety Committee
- Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation Board
- Library Board
- Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Special Joint Committee on the Redevelopment of Abandoned and Foreclosed Homes
- Wisconsin Center district

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.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

6th District Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday January 20, 2016

5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Martin Luther King Jr. Public Library
310 W. Locust Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

MKE Business Now Summit

Saturday January 23, 2016

10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

BEAM Academy
3620 N. 18th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53206

Black History Month Read In

Tuesday February 23, 2016

5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Martin Luther King Jr. Public Library
310 W. Locust Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212

Girls' Day @ City Hall

Thursday March 24, 2016

9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

City Hall Rotunda
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

WHAT'S NEW

Mr. Perkins' Takes Top Soul Food Honors >



In a list of the top 60 Soul Food restaurants in America, **teabreakfast.com** selected Mr. Perkins' Family Restaurant on Atkinson Avenue as the #1 best in the country. Alderwoman Coggs, along with her colleagues

Alderman Wade and Alderman Hamilton, stopped by to offer their congratulations to owner Cherry Perkins.

Mr. Perkins' is open Wednesday through Saturday, 6:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., and the first Sunday of each month from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. ■

Grocery Store Coming to MLK Drive >



King's Fresh Market will open in 2016 at 2730 North Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Owners Tamora and Bruce Martin's plans for this locally-owned and operated grocery store include offerings of prepared foods, fresh meats, fresh produce, dairy products, dry goods and a small variety of household items. The owners are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles. ■

BublR Bikes comes to 6th District >

In October, Alderwoman Coggs spoke during a news conference adjacent to Hillside Terrace (N. 6th St. and W. Galena) announcing the successful installation of 17 new BublR Bikes stations in the city. The new additional BublR stations – including the new one at Hillside -- more than double the 11 bike sharing stations that were already in place in the city as of summer 2015. The 17 additional stations extend BublR Bikes' presence to new locations north, south and west of the initial downtown sites, and are the result of partnerships between DPW, BublR Bikes and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



Freedom Scholarship Essay Contest Winner >



Takiya Eiland

Takiya Eiland, a graduate of North Division High School and a former member of the City of Milwaukee Youth Council, has earned a scholarship as the winner of the 7th annual **Freedom Scholarship Essay Contest**, sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs.

Ms. Eiland is a second year college student majoring in criminal justice at Central State University.

"We are still fighting to make freedom and justice realities for all," Ald. Coggs said. "This young woman symbolizes the new generation of young leaders who are working to make these goals possible with the freedom movements of the past as their guide."

In her essay, Ms. Eiland wrote: "When people are taught about their culture, history, and what it took to get to where we are today, they are more likely to appreciate the world today and pass what they know down to even more generations."

Ms. Eiland received a \$500 scholarship award.

2016 scholarship applications will be available April 1, 2016.

For more information visit city.milwaukee.gov/commoncouncil/District6/FreedomScholarshipEssayContest ■

Summer Intern >

Kalan R. Haywood II



Kalan R. Haywood II served as the district's summer 2015 intern, (as part of the city's Earn & Learn City Summer Youth Internship Program) and is also serving as the 6th District representative on the City of Milwaukee Youth Council.

A student at Rufus King International Baccalaureate High School, Kalan has experience in group organizing and wants to strengthen his leadership skills while helping to maximize positive opportunities for young people and improve the community. He serves as a Rufus King student ambassador and is a National Junior Honor Society member.

For more information visit milwaukee.gov/earnlearn ■

Ammar Nsoroma: Bronzeville Public Art Contest Winner



Alderwoman Coggs has announced that Mr. Ammar Nsoroma is the winner of the Bronzeville Public Art Contest, and will receive a \$20,000 grant to implement his proposal and maintain it for a period of at least 18 months.

Mr. Nsoroma is beginning the process of installing his proposed bronze-colored statue, titled “Mama Bronzeville,” with work set to go forward in the city-owned vacant lot next to 628 W. North Ave.

“I am astounded at the depth of talent displayed by those who competed in the contest, and I am grateful for their interest,” Alderwoman Coggs said. “Mr. Nsoroma is an accomplished artist who has created works around the country. His new project in Bronzeville—the first of several such projects we have planned—is sure to be a source of pride for the neighborhood.”

A number of renowned local artists took part in the competition. They were asked to submit a design sketch along with a proposed budget for the assembly and removal of their work, as well as samples of their previous work and a description of their connection to the Bronzeville area. Finalists were called in for interviews where their preliminary design concepts were evaluated.

Mr. Nsoroma has more than 25 years of experience as a public artist, having studied at both the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He has more than 80 murals to his credit, including pieces in Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C., as well as his hometown of Milwaukee.

“Bronzeville provided a space for me to learn and mature creatively as a young artist, and my work would honor that connection,” Mr. Nsoroma wrote in his proposal.

For more information visit milwaukee.gov/bronzeville



“We Got This” Instills Positive Message, Now in 2nd Year



“We Got This” had its second successful summer at 9th and Ring in the 6th District’s Borchert Field neighborhood. Neighborhood boys were mentored and given a chance to earn money doing work to beautify the area. Topics such as work ethic, money management, personal responsibility and community accountability were covered by weekly speakers at the garden. The unique and inspiring initiative, founded in 2014 by community mentor and leader Andre Lee Ellis, provides boys and teens with the chance to connect positive work with earning, and the number of teens and boys showing up has steadily increased. Donors from across Milwaukee and the metro area also have helped make sure the effort continues.

Learn more at wegotthismke.com







NML Project Employing Residents Helping Small Businesses >

Alderwoman Coggs voted to ensure that the \$450 million Northwestern Mutual Tower and Commons project would include city residents and that it would use the services of small businesses, and so far the downtown project is doing exactly that.

According to the most recent available information, Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) in Milwaukee have been awarded \$98.7 million in contracts and commitments on the project, or 29.6% of the total value of applicable construction and professional services contracts to date.

Milwaukee residents eligible under the Residents Preference Program (RPP) have performed more than 46% of the construction hours on the project to date. The TIF No. 78 Workforce Development Program approved by the Common Council includes a commitment for City of Milwaukee residents to perform 40% of the hours on the construction site, and the report also shows that 213 city of Milwaukee residents, including 35 apprentices, worked on the project through March 31.

“I am pleased so far that the workforce development program for the Northwestern Mutual project is working as intended, and I am hopeful it will provide residents with jobs that can lead to long careers in the construction industry,” Alderwoman Coggs said. ■

New Bucks Arena Means More Jobs for Milwaukeeans >

A \$500 million construction project to build a new arena for the Milwaukee Bucks will have far-reaching benefits for unemployed and underemployed residents in the City of Milwaukee.

In negotiations over the project, the city convinced the Bucks to agree that at least 40 percent of the jobs created to build the new arena will go to Milwaukee residents who qualify as unemployed or underemployed.

The city will not spend any property tax money to help the Bucks finance the arena.

The agreement also committed \$750,000 to recruiting, training and assisting those workers, ensuring that when work is completed on the new arena, they will be qualified to find work on other construction projects in the future.

For those looking to explore possible job opportunities on current and future projects, please call the **Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board (MAWIB) at 414-270-1700.** ■



Ald. Coggs Proposes Advisory Panel for MPD Body Cameras >



Alderwoman Coggs has authored a Common Council resolution establishing a Police Body Camera Advisory Committee to provide a community voice in development of the policies, procedures and use of body-worn cameras by Milwaukee Police Department personnel.

The committee would be charged with reviewing policies and procedures, hearing community viewpoints and making recommendations to the Fire and Police Commission regarding the use of body-worn cameras by MPD personnel.

The 2016 city budget adopted by the Council includes \$880,000 to equip all police officers with body-worn cameras.

“Violent encounters between members of the community and police officers have occurred here and across the nation with increased frequency, and body-worn cameras used by police officers would provide a critical video and audio record of police encounters with the public,” Alderwoman Coggs said.

“I believe this is a crucial new tool that is needed in Milwaukee, as studies have shown a significant decrease in incidents of using force and citizen complaints when officers are using body-worn video cameras,” she said. “The advisory committee would provide a voice and recommendations on how the cameras should best be used by MPD personnel.” ■

\$1 MILLION Pilot Program Will Convert Blight Into Affordable Rental Units

A new city program co-sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs and Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II will help turn city-owned foreclosed properties into remodeled rental units for residents with limited incomes.

“The wave of foreclosures that swept through Milwaukee left the city as the unwilling owner of more than a thousand abandoned homes,” Alderwoman Coggs said. “While efforts to sell these homes to new owners have met with success, I believe it’s worth exploring whether some of them might be remodeled and rented out to responsible residents.”

The Department of City Development is currently reviewing companies that responded to the city’s request for qualified applicants to perform the renovations and manage the properties. Recognizing that a single company may not be able to meet these qualifications, DCD encouraged the creation of teams consisting of a developer or general contractor and a property management firm to respond to this proposal.

The initiative is intended to test the relative costs and benefits of maintaining city ownership of properties, renovating them and operating them as rental units, rather than allowing them to remain vacant. Alderwoman Coggs and Alderman Stamper created it as an amendment to the Mayor’s proposed budget by redirecting \$1 million from other capital projects.

As the property owner, the city would collect rent from residents, which could then be used to fund similar projects. At the end of the three-year trial period, the properties may be retained by the city, or marketed for sale, including the possibility of sale to tenants.

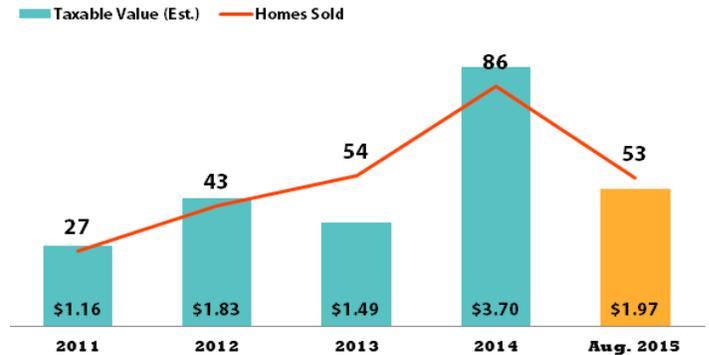
“Every opportunity we have to pull the boards off the windows, put new residents in houses and rebuild our neighborhoods is a win for every resident of our city,” Alderwoman Coggs said.

For more information visit milwaukee.gov/DCD



Strong Neighborhoods Plan Makes Gains on Foreclosure Problems

City Home Sales Ald. District 6



The Strong Neighborhoods Plan, a major feature of this year’s city budget that began in 2014, redoubles city efforts to reduce the number and mitigate the impacts of tax-foreclosed properties that the city owns.

The 6th Aldermanic District has a disproportionate share of tax foreclosures and vacant property, and Alderwoman Coggs has worked with Mayor Barrett to increase sales of city-owned property. Since January 2014, the city has sold 745 homes, including 139 in the 6th District. These homes will be re-occupied, and their value will reduce tax burdens on Milwaukee homeowners.

At Alderwoman Coggs’s urging, the city is focused on selling more vacant lots, and has already sold 109. The Common Council voted July 21 to expand the \$1 side lot program to many more city lots.

The Strong Neighborhoods Challenge Fund will assist the Housing Authority in purchasing and renovating at least 15 properties in Harambee for affordable occupancy. City contractors are working with local agencies to use deconstruction as a training opportunity for Milwaukeeans looking for skills and work opportunities.

For more information visit milwaukee.gov/strong

New Legislation Will Create Resource and Artist Houses

A new initiative sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs and Alderman Stamper in the 2016 budget will provide up to \$25,000 with a 50% match from the purchaser to buy In Rem residential or commercial mixed use properties for use as artistic studios, community resource centers or living spaces.

“I see this program as a creative way to help deal with some foreclosed properties and assist with access to much needed resources,” said Alderwoman Coggs.

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2014 DR. JAMES G. WHITE DIFFERENCE MAKERS AWARD WINNERS

Keya Shumpert (resident) Kenneth Jones (resident) Jacob Gatlin (resident)
 Dr. Andrew Calhoun (resident) WE GOT THIS (program)
 Halyard Park Neighborhood Association (Block Club)

Nominations for 2015 recipients will begin December 1, 2015.



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 Alderwoman, 6th District
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 Milwaukee, WI 53202

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Sojourner Family Peace Center >

Alderwoman Coggs, a member of the city's Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (MCDVSA), is proud to support the new Sojourner Family Peace Center at the corner of N. 6th and W. Walnut Streets in the 6th District.

The new facility is expected to be open by January, and will allow Sojourner and its many partner agencies to work under one roof to provide support and services to families impacted by violence.

"This new collaborative approach, known as the Family Justice Center model, has been adopted around the country as a way to connect families with many services in one convenient location, to prevent victims from experiencing the trauma of re-telling their story to multiple providers, to strengthen relationships between different organizations, and make better use of limited resources," Alderwoman Coggs said. "The Center in Milwaukee will be the largest of its kind in the nation, as well as

one of the first in the United States to combine child advocacy and family violence services in the same location."

In addition to its emergency shelter and hotline, the new building will house Sojourner Family Peace Center's programs, including legal advocacy, case management, support groups, job readiness training, children's programming, and life skills development. Children's Hospital of Wisconsin (CHW), as a foundational partner, has made a long-term commitment and financial contribution to the Center. The Milwaukee Police Department, the Milwaukee DA's Office, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Legal Action of Wisconsin are among the co-located organizations that will have offices onsite to deliver programming and services daily.

Sojourner has worked closely with the MCDVSA for more than 30 years. For more information please call **414-276-1911**. ■

2016 ELECTION: Election Workers Needed



Do you support fair, transparent and accurate elections? If so, the City of Milwaukee Election Commission needs your help.

Visit milwaukee.gov/election and click on the Election Workers tab, where you will also find the application (either an application to print and mail or one to complete and submit on-line). You may also pick up an application at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St., Room 501 or call the Election Worker Coordinator **Dan Puhok** at **414-286-3491** and request an application by mail. ■

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

- TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH 2016
Spring Primary
- TUESDAY, APRIL 5TH 2016
Spring General
- TUESDAY, AUGUST 9TH 2016
Fall Primary
- TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH 2016
Fall Presidential Election