
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Council Members See Relevance In Play About City's Open Housing Protests

*News Conference Tomorrow to Draw Attention to Second Milwaukee Staging of
"March On Milwaukee: A Memoir of the Open Housing Protests"*

The 1960s open housing protests that propelled then Alderwoman Vel Phillips and Father James Groppi into the public spotlight also have the power to teach Milwaukee's young people about the Civil Rights movement and to spark discussions about problems that still exist today in Milwaukee, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton said.

A play about that tumultuous time in Milwaukee's history is being staged here for just the second time, and Ald. Hamilton suggests the production is "a teachable moment for young Milwaukeeans." **Ald. Hamilton is expected to be joined by Ald. Milele A. Coggs and Ald. Nik Kovac during a news conference tomorrow (Wednesday, April 23, 2008) to raise awareness of "March On Milwaukee: A Memoir of the Open Housing Protests." The news conference will be at 1 p.m. at Mason Temple Church of God In Christ, 6090 N. 35th St. Media coverage is invited.**

"We want young people in this city to know the awesome power they possess, and if their energy is directed in the right way they can again come together to change the course of Milwaukee history," Ald. Hamilton said.

Newly elected 6th District Ald. Coggs said the play has the power to spark young minds with ideas that can lead to a better Milwaukee. "They'll see how to create a great opportunity to make a better future by learning from and building upon the work of the past – all with the aim of changing and improving the city for everyone," she said.

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Play RE: Open Housing Protests/ADD ONE

Ald. Kovac knows quite a bit about “March on Milwaukee” – he had a role in the production last year. “I learned more about this city’s history, and was inspired by (Margaret Rozga’s) words and by Andre’s stage direction to get more involved in our current movements for justice and equality,” said Ald. Kovac, the newly elected 3rd District alderman.

“The marches led by Vel Phillips, Father Groppi, and the NAACP Youth Council in 1967 and 1968 were extraordinary moments of our community coming together and forcing necessary changes in government, and the more our children learn about the struggles and successes of the past, the better all of our futures will be,” he said.

At the news conference students from Jared C. Bruce Academy will honor the participants of the open housing marches with a balloon release and a pledge to work on changing Milwaukee in a positive way.

“March On Milwaukee: A Memoir of the Open Housing Protests” is a stage adaptation of the memoirs of Margaret Rozga, who was married to Father Groppi for 10 years and was at his side during his open housing marches. The play was first performed in Milwaukee last year before a standing room-only crowd at the Humphrey Scottish Rite Temple Center in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the open housing marches.

“March On Milwaukee: A Memoir of the Open Housing Protests” will be performed at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 26, 2008 at Mason Temple Church of God In Christ. The YMCA Community Development Center, Mason Temple COGIC, and Andre Lee Ellis & Co are sponsoring the production.