
Common Council President

15th District Alderman



Willie L. Hines, Jr.
City of Milwaukee Common Council

April 24, 2008

Bill Arnold
286-3285

Hines Draws On Members' Strengths, Experience & Leadership In Making Council Committee Appointments

Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. today announced 2008-2012 assignments for the seven standing committees that will address the major issues that face Milwaukee. Included within these new assignments are the committee chairs.

"One of the greatest strengths of this Council is the caliber of our returning chairs," said President Hines. "They have boldly faced Milwaukee's biggest problems, and they have solved those problems with innovative answers that engage our residents."

The returning committee chairs are: Ald. Robert J. Bauman, Public Works; Ald. Robert G. Donovan, Public Safety; Ald. Joe Davis, Sr., Community and Economic Development, and Ald. Michael J. Murphy, Finance and Personnel.

"Every one of these members has demonstrated a great passion and an in-depth understanding of his area of expertise," added President Hines. "Ald. Bauman has positioned himself as the city's foremost champion of public transportation while simultaneously offering the Department of Public Works improved strategies for delivering basic city services. Likewise, Ald. Donovan is a great advocate for upgrading public safety, whether it's stemming homicides or eliminating graffiti. Ald. Davis has made Milwaukee a true leader in community-building and economic development. He has positioned Milwaukee as a national example that other metropolitan areas can emulate. Finally, Ald. Murphy has offered strong oversight and incisive leadership in addressing Milwaukee's most pressing financial challenges. He has done this with unparalleled professionalism, wisdom and class."

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Council veteran James N. Witkowiak will now chair Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development, and Attorney Ashanti Hamilton will chair Judiciary and Legislation. Taking Ald. Witkowiak's place as chair of the Licenses Committee will be the seasoned Ald. Jim Bohl, who has previously taken the gavel (in Ald. Witkowiak's absence) as the committee's 2004-2008 vice chair.

"Truthfully, I am excited about the potential that this Council offers our city," says President Hines. "Our new chairs will play a vital role in engaging and addressing the issues of the day. Ald. Witkowiak will bring an on-the-ground understanding of business development to ZND; Ald. Hamilton will manage his committee with an astute legal mind; and Ald. Bohl understands the demands of leading Licenses and will direct that committee with the utmost integrity."

The two newcomers, Aids. Milele A. Coggs and Nik Kovac will infuse one of the Council's most powerful committees, Finance and Personnel, with their analytical skills and energy. Kovac was a mathematics major at Harvard and Coggs earned her law degree at UW-Madison.

"The overall committee assignments highlight the strengths of the Council and the strengths of Milwaukee," added President Hines. "Seniority plays a part in committee assignments, but a fresh perspective can also be a great asset for the Finance and Personnel committee as it tackles the important challenges of the budget each year. These two newcomers will come to the table prepared to do the city's business and I am sure their intellectual skills will be put to good use."

Vice chairs appointed by the president: Ald. Tony Zielinski, Community and Economic Development; Ald. Bauman, Finance and Personnel; Ald. Terry L. Witkowski, Judiciary and Legislation; Ald. Joe Dudzik, Public Works; Ald. Robert W. Puente, Public Safety; Ald. Willie C. Wade, Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development; and Ald. Coggs, Licenses.

[A full listing of committee assignments is attached.]