

Joint Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs and Alderman Nik Kovac

December 22, 2009

We have been informed by the Milwaukee Fire Department administration that it will be decommissioning Truck 10 at the Engine 18 fire station located at 3628 N. Holton St. (Holton and E. Nash St.). This move is in response to provisions of the 2010 city budget adopted by the Common Council on November 6. The MFD administration, under interim Fire Chief Michael Jones, indicated that the choice of Truck 10 was made with help from a specialized software analysis that took into consideration several factors, including response times, proximity of other available apparatus, experience of the command staff, and anticipated calls for service.

We serve on the Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, and during the budget process we fought long and hard to maintain as many resources as possible for the fire department. We have a shared top-level priority of public safety, and it's unfortunate that the criteria used to select the city's one decommissioned apparatus identified Truck 10, long-served by dedicated, skilled and brave MFD personnel.

We are concerned with the decommissioning of Truck 10, but we are hopeful that the current MFD administration and the city's next fire chief will make sure resources are deployed wisely and adequately to ensure that our homes, businesses, industries and residents are well protected and safe.

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