

Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs November 10, 2009

Over the weekend more than 300 young people were discovered by Milwaukee police dancing and partying in an abandoned building on N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. near W. North Ave. The illegal \$10 per person party – complete with a deejay and armed security – was promoted on various websites, and word apparently spread quickly among young Milwaukeeans looking for something fun to do.

Milwaukee police had been made aware of the online “invitation” to the party, and they acted appropriately to shut it down. The building had only one door for entry and exit – a perfect scenario for tragedy had there been a smoky fire, shots fired or even a large disturbance. I strongly commend Milwaukee police for their response and quick action in this incident, and the Department of Neighborhood Services for later securing the building. Let this be a message to rave organizers and property owners that this kind of recklessness and risk to public safety will not be tolerated.

I want my constituents and all of Milwaukee to know that my focus and commitment to the continual revitalization and economic development of the Bronzeville area remains strong and will not waver.

This incident also brings to the surface something many adults in Milwaukee may tend to ignore: our young people need safe activities they can enjoy and that do not compromise their well being. It is up to the responsible adults and leaders in our community to help foster more safe activities and social events for young people.

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