



“Milwaukee Promise” Amendment Looks to Measure Efficacy Statement of Alderman Ashanti Hamilton October 25, 2010

The City of Milwaukee has a desperate need to solve our poverty crisis. According to recent U.S. Census findings, we now rank as the 4th poorest city in the nation. We cannot allow for our community to be defined by its poverty and unemployment any longer.

Therefore, I am proposing an amendment to the budget that holds groups, agencies or programs who receive city funds to abate poverty and joblessness accountable to tangible results. My co-sponsors, Alderwoman Coggs, Alderman Wade, Alderman Kovac and Alderman Zielinski are in agreement that tracking the outcomes of our current efforts can provide the foundation for any necessary change in the future.

The proposed amendment will require that any city program or funded organization that earns its dollars based on anti-poverty or job creation grants or missions must provide an accounting of how successful their program was over the course of the year.

This reporting mechanism will allow the city to recognize the programs with the most successful structures so that as budget funds are allocated in the future, we can support those programs whose efforts make a significant impact on eradicating poverty in Milwaukee and direct funds to programs with results.

I have identified nearly \$100 million in this year’s budget that should be used to leverage private and public resources. Our current stewardship of these resources allows our successes to be drowned out by our failures. It is Milwaukee’s Promise to do better.

Recognizing program successes or opportunities means we can have more immediate impact on the lives of those Milwaukeeans counting on us for change.

The amendment will be presented this week as part of the budgeting process. The 2011 budget will be voted on in the Common Council meeting on Friday, November 5, 2010.

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