



May 20, 2010

**Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
(414) 286-2228**

Alderman Hamilton New President of Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton is the new president of the Milwaukee Public Library Board of Trustees.

Alderman Hamilton, a member of the board for the past five years, was elected this morning by his fellow trustees to take over the president's job from David Reimer, who had held the gavel for two years.

As a member of the Common Council for the past six years – all increasingly difficult budget years – Alderman Hamilton is well aware of the many challenges that face the city and MPL. However, he said the board is in the process of implementing a dynamic new facilities plan and a new service model that he believes will end up substantially improving access to library resources and upgrading what the library can offer users.

“As a board, it is our belief that we will be able to get better library services to more people in Milwaukee for less money,” Alderman Hamilton said, referring specifically to the new service model.

Reimer, who will continue to serve on the board, presided “with vision and skill” during his time as board president, Alderman Hamilton said. “With the city's dire budget situation, it has not been an easy time, but I want to extend a sincere ‘thank you’ to David for his leadership and dedication,” the alderman said.

Other members of the board of trustees are: Sharon Cook; Art Harrington; Ald. Nik Kovac; Supervisor Theo Lipscomb; Martin J. Schreiber; Gretchen Schuldt; MPS Board of School Directors member Bruce Thompson; City Librarian Paula Kiely; Ald. Milele A. Coggs; John Gurda; and Joan Prince.