
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 4, 2010

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
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Festival Tomorrow to Celebrate Harambee Community Action Day

A free and family-friendly street festival tomorrow (**Saturday, June 5**) will highlight the 2010 Harambee Community Action Day (HCAD), said Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, whose 6th Aldermanic District is proudly hosting the inaugural upbeat event.

Two blocks of W. Center St. – between N. 4th and N. 6th Streets – will be blocked off to allow for food, games and kids’ activities, music, resource booths and more. The event will go from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

“I’m really hoping the community will come out and support this positive and constructive event in Harambee,” said Alderwoman Coggs, who has been working closely with organizers and volunteers to help make the festival a success.

Like most community events, volunteers and sponsors have been the lifeblood of the Harambee Community Action Day, one of several Milwaukee Police Department Community Action Days happening in the city for the first time in 2010. The HCAD is being sponsored specifically by the MPD’s 5th District.

“I want to give credit and a warm ‘thank you’ on behalf of Harambee, the 6th District and the city as a whole to the dedicated volunteers and sponsors who are making the event possible,” Alderwoman Coggs said. “There are so many details and plans to go over, and it has truly been a challenge at times. But we have residents, block clubs, churches, businesses and many other organizations and groups who have stepped up and generously lent their time, talents, and resources to make this event happen.”

-More-

Harambee Festival/ADD ONE

According to Alderwoman Coggs, the MPD Community Action Days are meant to get police officers and residents in action together, working in unison to make a visible and positive change in our neighborhoods. There will be a concerted effort to interest residents in starting Block Watch clubs, and each of the action days culminate in a resource fair, with food and fun activities for kids.

Community Action Days are the final step in a process of door-to-door outreach to discuss crime concerns with residents and to help identify specific nuisance properties. This is followed by a comprehensive Community Prosecution Unit team effort to resolve criminal nuisance issues deemed most important by residents.

Alderwoman Coggs said she is strongly supportive of the overall aim of the HCAD. “Residents who may at times feel underserved by police or who may even feel distrust and disconnect with law enforcement become more positive about their neighborhood and their block when they see their concerns addressed,” she said.

“And, over time, it is hoped the level of residents’ toleration for nuisance activity, including drug dealing, gang loitering and gun violence, goes down,” she said.