

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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MILELE A. COGGS

6th District Alderwoman

Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Cogg

January 11, 2010

I would like to extend heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the man who passed away from smoke inhalation in the fire that engulfed a home Saturday (January 9) at 628 W. Clarke St., in the 6th District. Milwaukee firefighters responded to the residence quickly, and the man was taken by paramedics to Columbia St. Mary's, where he died.

Early indications are that there were no working smoke detectors in the home.

Fire safety is of the utmost importance to me, and I strongly urge all residents to please, please make sure they have a working smoke detector on each and every floor of their residence, and in every bedroom/sleeping area. "Working" means a smoke detector that has fresh batteries that have been recently tested and successfully triggered the detector's piercing alarm sound. It is true – a smoke detector CAN save your life and the lives of your loved ones.

At this time, I do not believe the decision by the Milwaukee Fire Department administration to decommission Truck 10 at the Engine 18 fire station located at 3628 N. Holton St. (Holton and E. Nash St.) is causing any adverse impacts on the safety of neighborhoods. This move – made in response to provisions of the 2010 city budget adopted by the Common Council – was made after an analysis done by specialized software that took into consideration several factors, including response times, proximity of other available apparatus, experience of the command staff, and anticipated calls for service. **I have invited Chief Jones to attend my town hall meeting this Thursday, January 14, 2010, (5:30 p.m. at the Kern Park pavilion, 3614 N. Humboldt Blvd.) to answer questions that residents may have.**

During budget deliberations as a member of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, I voted to maintain as many resources as possible for the fire department. During these challenging economic times, I believe we made difficult but appropriate decisions on behalf of our constituents and the people of Milwaukee.

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