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- PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

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**WILLIE C. WADE**  
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

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- ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE (SEWRPC)

**BOARD MEMBER**

- LOCAL INITIATIVES SUPPORT GROUP (LISC)
- MILWAUKEE SURVIVE ALIVE FOUNDATION
- WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
- FRESH COAST BASKETBALL CLASSIC

## Statement from Alderman Willie C. Wade March 24, 2010

Today the Common Council gave final approval to a lease agreement that clears the way for high-speed train maker Talgo to establish its North American operations center at the Century City site (the former home to A.O. Smith and Tower). Talgo, which is based in Spain, considered proposals in other Wisconsin cities, including Janesville and Kenosha, but ultimately selected a city-owned refurbished building near the corner of W. Townsend and N. 28th Streets to house final manufacturing and assembly of high-speed trains. The two-year lease includes extension options for an additional six years, and it is expected that Talgo will have the plant up and running by the end of July.

Initially, Talgo expects 125 jobs to be created at the plant, which is tremendous news for the 7<sup>th</sup> District and the City of Milwaukee. The citizens of the 7<sup>th</sup> District have been looking for job creation and job opportunities, and Talgo is delivering both in Century City this year.

When many questioned whether the city should even invest in the Century City site, I was joined by other council members in forging ahead and creating tax incremental district #74, which is all about job creation. When the city ran into serious difficulty in purchasing the site from its former owner, the City Attorney's Office stepped in and played a critical role in helping make the site an available option. I give them tremendous credit for their contribution, which ultimately paid off big with Talgo.

Without the support and work of Mayor Barrett, Rocky Marcoux and the Department of City Development, and my Common Council colleagues, this very positive catalytic development would have never happened. Long hours were spent negotiating and shaping the Century City / Talgo deals and our city's team approach really paid off for the citizens of Milwaukee.

I can assure everyone that this is only the beginning for Century City. I will be working diligently to help land other tenants, and to assist those who are interested in seeing what Century City has to offer.

I am truly excited and optimistic about what the future holds for Century City, and the City of Milwaukee.

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