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Time is Now for Milwaukee to Speak Against Residency Bill

**Statement of Alderman Ashanti Hamilton
March 16, 2011**

I am urging anyone and everyone who truly cares about the future of the City of Milwaukee to contact Milwaukee fire and police union leaders and members of the state Senate's Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs Committee and urge strong opposition to Senate Bill 30, a proposal to end the residency requirement for Milwaukee's police officers and firefighters.

But we **MUST** make these contacts during the **next few days**, because the committee's public hearing on the bill is next **Tuesday, March 22** in Madison.

The sponsors of the bill claim that it will not have a major impact on Milwaukee's tax base or property values. However, approximately 50% of our city workers move out of the city upon retirement, and one can project that about that same percentage of current and future police officers and firefighters will also move outside the city if the bill passes. In Detroit – where the residency requirement for city workers was repealed in 1999 – approximately 50% of its city workers now reside outside the city limits.

It's fairly obvious to me and to other members of the Common Council that a reasonable look at the evidence strongly suggests that if passed, this bill will be absolutely devastating to the city.

I have also been contacted by a number of police officers and firefighters, both active and retired, who understand that this bill will result in members being laid off, a more dangerous work environment, and a greater wedge between the public servants and the community they are supposed to serve. I am encouraging those officers and firefighters, most of all, to contact their union leadership and the sponsors of this bill to say this is the wrong time to force another financially devastating bill through the Legislature. **Stand by your union principles and stand by the community that has supported you...the community that you serve.**

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The contact information below can help you communicate your message of “Just Say NO to SB30!”

Milwaukee Police Association – Michael Crivello, president: (414) 778-0740

Local 215 – Milwaukee Professional Firefighters Association – David Seager, president: (414) 259-8000

Senator Van Wanggaard, Chair
Labor, Public Safety and Urban Affairs Committee
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Also, please send an email to the chair, the clerk of the committee, and committee members:

Sen.wanggaard@legis.wisconsin.gov

Sen.lazich@legis.wisconsin.gov

Sen.grothman@legis.wisconsin.gov

Sen.coggs@legis.wisconsin.gov

Sen.wirch@legis.wisconsin.gov

Craig.summerfield@legis.wisconsin.gov

You can also contact the author of SB30, Senator Leah Vukmir:

sen.vukmir@legis.wisconsin.gov