

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

February 17, 2011

Ald. Milele A. Coggs  
(414) 286-2994

## Illegal Dumping Legislation Passes Committee 5-0

Illegally dumping your solid waste anywhere but a permitted facility will cost you. At today's meeting of the Public Safety Committee, an ordinance that fines dumpers from \$1,500 to \$5,000 for the activity passed unanimously.

Legislation lead sponsor Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs praised the importance of the move, saying "Our residents deserve clean neighborhoods; this ordinance helps penalize those who violate that. This is a great pairing with the illegal dumping hotline legislation that we passed in the budget. Residents are encouraged to call the hotline and may be eligible for up to \$250 for reporting any dumping they witness."

The legislation has a long history. During the summer of 2010, the Milwaukee Police Department's 5th District Community Liaison Officers worked with a private citizen who observed an illegal dumping of 80 cubic yards of concrete onto a city-owned vacant lot. Using the information provided by the citizen, the officers confronted the suspect who admitted his involvement. The only enforcement available to officers was a single littering ticket (\$120) and a trespassing ticket. This enforcement was far less than the disposal costs. Department of Public Works' cost to remove the material was approximately \$5,000.

Alderman Robert Puente, vice chair of the Public Safety Committee, also supports the measure. "Letting waste sit illegally on properties inspires more dumping, trash and blight. This is a "broken windows" solution—the legislation stops a potentially bigger problem before it starts."

Puente also praised the increased fines, acknowledging that current fines don't cover the cost of clean up. "These more appropriate fines help to ensure the violator, not the taxpayer, covers the cost of the damage they've done."

**-More-**

## **Dumping/ADD ONE**

“It’s important to note dumping is distinct from littering,” Co-sponsor Alderman Willie Wade said. “This is a serious violation and a means of avoiding proper procedure for waste. It ruins neighborhoods and adds blight to our city.”

The measure will go to the full Council when it meets at 9 a.m. on March 1, 2011, in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

**-30-**