
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 14, 2011

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
(414) 286-2994
Ald. Willie Wade
(414) 286-3764

Public Safety Committee Approves MPD Files on Diversity Training, Traffic Stops

Ald. Coggs and Ald. Wade also announce plans to ask FPC for biannual public presentations on officer-involved shootings and citizen deaths in custody

The Common Council's **Public Safety Committee** today recommended approval for files urging the Milwaukee Police Department to continue collecting information about the race of persons involved in police traffic stops, and to continue cultural diversity training for police officers.

Alderman Milele A. Coggs, the primary sponsor of both files, said she was grateful for the support from members of the Public Safety Committee. Both matters were in question because the recently adopted state budget repealed state law requiring law enforcement agencies to collect such race information and to have officers go through diversity training.

"These matters are important to our city's transparency and openness, as well as to our ability to prepare our police officers to serve all of our neighborhoods and populations, and I am pleased by the votes," Alderman Coggs said.

Also, Michael Tobin, executive director of the Fire and Police Commission (FPC) reported to the committee about police officer involved shootings and in-custody deaths after a communication file was sponsored by Alderman Coggs and co-sponsored by **Alderman Willie C. Wade**.

Alderman Coggs said she and Alderman Wade will be introducing Common Council legislation requiring the FPC to present biannual public reports on officer involved shootings and in-custody deaths.

-More-

Public Safety Files/ADD ONE

NOTE: Residents can appear before the FPC during its meeting at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 28, 2011 at City Hall (room to be announced) to discuss officer involved shootings and citizen deaths in police custody.

Alderman Coggs said she believes strongly that more information on such incidents needs to be shared with the public. “Part of being a responsive and transparent government is making sure the public is informed about what has transpired in the most serious and tragic events our public employees are a part of,” she said.

Alderman Wade said a regular schedule of FPC reporting on officer involved shootings and deaths of persons in custody will be helpful for citizens and Council members. “We need to better understand the dangers and the extreme circumstances our officers are faced with on a daily basis, and we should not be compelled to call in the brass when we need more information. It should be a regular exercise, and that’s what we hope to happen with the biannual reporting (from the FPC),” Alderman Wade said.

All of the files acted upon today by the Public Safety Committee will be taken up by the full Common Council when it meets at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, July 26 in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.