

Michael Murphy

10th District Alderman



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Dear 10th District Residents:

Summer is nearly upon us, and with it comes a sense of new beginnings, particularly after enduring a long, and often harsh, Wisconsin winter. Unfortunately, the weather has not been our only obstacle the past few months. The City of Milwaukee, along with the rest of the state and nation, has undergone substantial financial and political difficulties.

There's no doubt we are facing extraordinary times that will continue to challenge us both personally and as a community. Not only are city leaders struggling to deal with increasing health care and pension costs, a stagnant economy, the negative impacts associated with foreclosures and deteriorating infrastructure, but in this upcoming budget cycle we will also have to grapple with astounding shared revenue cuts proposed by the governor. As Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee, one of my primary responsibilities is to ensure that the city maintains a balanced budget while it continues to provide high-quality services for its constituency. The governor's budget proposal consequently makes this a daunting task.

Despite our recent and forthcoming challenges, I trust that through collaborative dialogue, between city, county and state representatives and between leaders and their constituencies, we will overcome the multi-dimensional struggles we face. Fortunately, the City of Milwaukee has an informed and engaged citizenry that is committed to the city's success, and with your help and insight I will continue to fight for your safety and well-being as well as the city's continued prosperity.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District



Arbor Day at Hawthorn Glen



Alderman Murphy (pictured with Mayor Barrett) celebrated Arbor Day at Hawthorn Glen with students from Neeskara and Hawley Environmental School. The City of Milwaukee recently passed a resolution approving an intergovernmental agreement between the city, Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources that will grant \$280,000 (funded by MPS and the DNR) for improvements at the Glen.

Marcus DeBack Park Beautification Project



Alderman Murphy joins Nehemiah Project volunteers in placing new mulch at Marcus DeBack Park as part of a beautification project. The volunteers were students who combined evening community leadership classes at Cardinal Strich University with volunteer work for the Uptown Crossing TIN.

Recent Developments

City Continues to Fight Foreclosures

Alderman Murphy continues striving to find real solutions to help stem the tide of foreclosures. His recent efforts have focused on legislative change at the municipal level, increasing communication between city officials, community organizations and big banks.

This year, he has sponsored four ordinances directed at curbing the substantial negative long-term impacts foreclosures have on city neighborhoods. Among these was a substitute ordinance relating to owner-occupancy requirements for city sales of habitable properties. "The council passed legislation making the process of purchasing city-owned foreclosed homes more flexible. On an individual basis, and with neighborhood consent, the city is now willing to sell properties to responsible owners without requiring them to occupy the premise," Alderman Murphy says.

Alderman Murphy also sponsored legislation aimed at addressing maintenance and registration issues pertaining to vacant and foreclosed homes. Not only has the fee increased for failing to register foreclosed properties (from \$35 to \$250), but registrants (or their agents) are now also required to post signs identifying the responsible parties for contact purposes on all entrances to the buildings. Additionally, provisions passed require all doors and windows accessible to the public to be boarded to prevent trespassers and acts of vandalism.

Alderman Murphy continues to partner with the community organization Common Ground to bring major banks to the negotiating table and make them more accountable for their foreclosed properties. At a recent event held by Common Ground (in partnership with the city and Mercy Housing Lakefront), Wells Fargo agreed to commit \$2 million in mortgage financing for rehabilitated foreclosed homes, as well as \$400,000 to support the revitalization initiative in Sherman Park coined "Milwaukee Rising." Alderman Murphy and Common Ground members hope other banks will follow such examples.

Programs also exist for the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties for both homeownership and responsible rental property ownership. Additionally, Milwaukee established the Milwaukee Foreclosure Mediation Program with Marquette University Law School. The mediation program brings homeowners in the foreclosure process together with their lender to work out a settlement that will allow the homeowner to remain in their property.

If you or someone you know is facing foreclosure, the most important thing to do is to contact a certified foreclosure counselor as soon as possible. Milwaukee has several non-profit housing counseling agencies that can provide a multitude of free services. To contact a certified foreclosure counselor, for further information on the city's foreclosure efforts and for additional information on the programs and resources described above, go to www.takerootmilwaukee.com or call the **Take Root Milwaukee Hotline** at 921-4149. These services are free; be wary of anyone who charges a fee.

Finally, if a foreclosed property is causing problems in your neighborhood, you can contact the following city departments:

Department of Public Works (DPW) • (414) 286-CITY (2489)
Weeds, Tall Grass, Snow Shoveling

Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) • (414) 286-2268
Trash, Litter, Debris, Boards Removed, Code Violations, No Gas, No Electric

Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) • (414) 933-4444
Non-Emergency, Suspected Criminal Activity



Alderman Murphy joined Mayor Barrett, Council President Hines, Department of Neighborhood Services Commissioner Art Dahlberg and the Journal Sentinel's Editorial Board for a tour of foreclosed properties around the city.

Hank Aaron Trail Extension Opens



Alderman Murphy joined the Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail as they celebrated the opening of the trail's extension to a new bridge (Valley Passage) at 37th St. The trail now extends all the way to 94th Pl.



Balancing Services Amid Cuts: The 2012-13 City of Milwaukee Budget

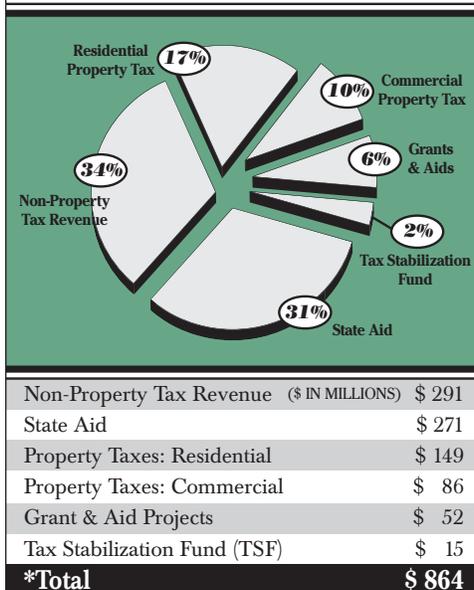
The mayor's city budget for fiscal year 2011 included no major service cuts and no increases in the property tax levy. Moreover, the final version adopted by the Common Council succeeded in further reducing the property tax levy. The governor's proposed state budget for 2011-2013, on the other hand, includes more than \$17 million in program cuts to the City of Milwaukee, which seriously undermines the city's ability to maintain current service levels.

In Wisconsin the state-local budget relationship is unique and important, as the State Legislature not only governs local government revenue authority, but also supports local government's fiscal capacity through state shared revenue. The term "shared revenue," however, is misleading. It refers to the income and sales taxes that all of us pay, but those taxes go to Madison before being redistributed back to local governments. Since 2003 the city's "share" of this tax income has been reduced by over \$60 million in inflation-adjusted dollars. That translates to about a 10% cut of our annual general city-operating budget.

The governor's proposed budget reduces shared revenue to the city by an estimated \$10.3 million (-4.5%). To balance this cut the governor suggested in his budget repair bill that the city increase employee pension and health care contributions. Yet exempted from such measures are police and fire personnel who constitute more than 60% of the city's employees (2/3 of the city's wage and benefit costs).

"While I disagree with many of the governor's proposals," Alderman Murphy says, "I do believe in driving a hard bargain at the negotiating table during a fiscal crisis. Indeed, this is what we have done successfully in the past. But without 'shared sacrifices' among the city's personnel as it relates to the costs of employment, the City of Milwaukee will face extreme budget constraints. The current proposals essentially give seats at the negotiating table to some employees while excluding others." Further exacerbating this situ-

2011 Budget Sources of City Revenue



*Excludes G.O. debt service paid by the City for MPS purposes.

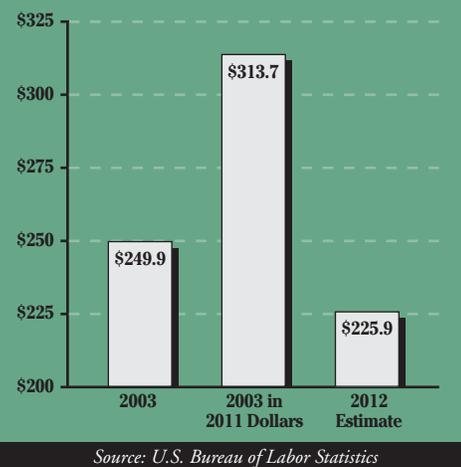
ation is Senator Vukmir's proposal to eliminate residency requirements for fire and police officers. "Although I hope there will not be a mass exodus of public safety personnel," Alderman Murphy continues, "we find examples where cities have removed this requirement, resulting in over 50% of officers leaving those cities within 5 years. This is not a balanced approach to 'shared sacrifice' or to balancing budgets."

The governor's proposed budget also reduces the state's appropriation to General Transportation Aid (GTA) by 10%, reducing Milwaukee's share by \$3.8 million (-15%). This funding source is used to maintain local roads and address other transportation-related issues, thus placing future road improvement projects in jeopardy.

Recycling mandates and recycling grants to municipalities were also drastically reduced in the governor's proposal by \$3.3 million. Yet, state law would retain current restrictions on landfill disposals, essentially requiring house-

State Shared Revenue Trend

Decline in State Shared Revenue & Expenditure Restraint Program Payments to Milwaukee 2003-2012 (in Millions)



holds to continue separating recycling materials from their solid waste. As such, if the City of Milwaukee is forced to leave its recycling program intact, it will have to find creative ways to make up the \$3.3 million. *This doesn't go toward budget reduction, but rather to a slush fund.*

"The bottom line entering into budget preparations for 2012-2013 is that the city faces substantial financial challenges that are being exacerbated by state aid reductions and levy limits," Alderman Murphy says. This equation puts constraints on the city's capacity to deal with cost increases, especially with police and fire budgets. "I understand we are in an economic recession, forcing all organizations to make sacrifices similar to those being made in our individual households. As Chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee," Alderman Murphy contends, "I will do my best to work with the cards we've been dealt and continue prioritizing to preserve the important public services our constituents have come to expect."

Milwaukee's 2011 Budget News

This March, the Common Council opposed the governor's Budget Repair Bill in its entirety because of concern with collective bargaining restrictions in the bill. The Council vehemently advocated for the inclusion of police and fire unions in the discussion – groups that are currently exempt from increased pension contributions, health care contributions and are still allowed to collectively bargain with the city. Fire and police employees constitute more than 60% of the city's employees and without equal restrictions and "sacrifices" related to the costs of their employment, the City of Milwaukee will still face extreme budget constraints.

Get Connected. Get Answers.

 United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

 Cell phone, dial 414-773-0211.

 Pay phone, dial 1-866-211-3380.

Flooding in the District

Last summer, Milwaukee residents dealt with the damage left by near unprecedented floodwaters from two dramatic rainstorms in July. As a result, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared Milwaukee County a federal disaster area, despite FEMA originally only granting disaster relief funding to agencies, not individuals.

As part of a large concerted effort to appeal to FEMA that the damage extended significantly to individual residences, the city launched a large canvassing campaign to solicit documentation from individuals whose basements were destroyed by flood waters. The result was FEMA's declaration that funds to help counter the costs of damages would be available to individuals as well as to agencies.

In addition to federal relief funding, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and DPW announced a plan in July to spend more than \$5 million in MMSD funds and \$1 million in city funds to pay for three emergency projects to help reduce basement backups.

Though the 10th District was not the hardest area hit by the floods, it certainly experienced significant damage. "I'm proud of the way residents and neighbors came together to help one another during the floods," Alderman Murphy said. Continued action is taking place at the national and local levels to help avert these crises in the future. Currently, the City of Milwaukee is applying to FEMA as part of a program that could offer our residents reduced rates on flood insurance.

Residents should be reminded, however, that basement flooding is often caused by the condition of their lateral sewer line extending from their home to the city system. Roots or other debris can often impede the efficiency of these lines. Basement damage resulting from sewage backups is not covered by flood insurance, so homeowners should take care to be preventative in their home maintenance.

Flood Meeting at Mother of Good Counsel



Alderman Murphy held various meetings throughout his district after the torrential July 2010 rainstorms. The meetings were attended not only by affected residents, but also by engineers from the Department of Public Works and representatives from the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District.

Take Advantage of Home Rehab Programs



The Home Rehabilitation Program offers owner occupants loans for projects like roofs, siding, code violations, porches, and more. The loans are either no to low-interest depending on income and family size, or deferred payment loans to income-qualified residents.

The Rental Rehab Program offers forgivable loans for rehabilitating rental property. Landlords may be eligible for forgivable loans up to \$14,999 per unit. The loans bear no interest rate, and the loan is forgiven five years after the rehab is completed. Other restrictions apply. The owner must provide at least one matching dollar for each Rental Rehab dollar received. For example, a 2/2 duplex would be eligible for up to \$29,998 of Rental Rehab dollars if the landlord spends at least \$29,998 of their own funds (bank loan, cash). The landlord is required to spend their money first.

The city's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation runs these programs. For a property to qualify, it must be located in the Community Development Block Grant Area.

Please call (414) 286-5608 for complete details, or visit www.milwaukee.gov/NIDC

July Floods: The Aftermath

After initially receiving a "no" from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for individual disaster assistance for residents and businesses who sustained significant damages from the record July 2010 rainstorms, city and state officials proactively collected additional information about the breadth of the damage and ultimately convinced FEMA to approve individual assistance funding. Mayor Barrett, former Governor Doyle, and many other city, state, and federal officials deserve credit for going the extra mile and not letting up.

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) has approved legislation putting aside \$151 million over an 11-year period to address inflow and infiltration issues (INI) on private property laterals throughout the MMSD district boundaries.

Also, \$500,000 was set aside in the mayor's 2011 executive budget to implement a pilot program (in a specific demonstration area) in coordination with MMSD to deal with INI issues affecting underground private property laterals within the City of Milwaukee, however this amount could be subject to future reductions due to the state budget.

As INI issues are likely a key contributing factor to the basement backwater problems we're seeing throughout the city during heavy rain events, "I will continue to find ways of addressing the issue creatively and proactively," Alderman Murphy says.

Need a Smoke Detector?

The City of Milwaukee continues to see tragic fires in which smoke detectors were removed or not properly operating. All homes need working smoke detectors.



A smoke detector is a very inexpensive safety tool. The fire department recommends that one detector be placed on each floor of your home in addition to one in each bedroom and/or sleeping area. Alderman Murphy encourages residents who do not have a working smoke detector in their home to call the Smoke Detector Hotline at **286-8980** to see if they are eligible for a free detector.

Emergency Loan Program for Homeowners

Furnace not working? Water heater not working? Active leaks from pipes, roof or flashing? Serious structural problems or hazardous electrical problems?

If you or someone you know has run into any of the above listed serious emergency home problems, the City of Milwaukee's Homeowners' Emergency Loan Program (HELP) may be available to offer assistance.

The HELP is available to income-eligible owner-occupants anywhere in the city. The program is for emergencies that, if not corrected, would make the home uninhabitable. HELP is not for maintenance, code violations, or other work that is not a true emergency. The program offers loans for low to moderate-income homeowners – grants are not available.

For application information, or to see if you qualify, please go to www.milwaukee.gov/EmergencyLoanProgram.htm

Lady Popes Take State



Alderman Murphy (pictured with Alderwoman Coggs and Alderman Wade) honored the Pius XI High School women's basketball team at a Common Council meeting. The team won the WIAA Division I State Tournament in 2010.

New Garbage Cart Policies

Waste reduction works! More and more people find they no longer need two or more garbage carts because they're doing an effective job recycling and generating less garbage. If you have an extra cart, please call **286-CITY (2489)** or fill out an online service request and we'll collect it. One of the changes brought about by this year's budget, however, includes a \$20 annual fee for every extra garbage cart you'd like added to your residence. The Sanitation Division repairs broken carts. Call **286-CITY** or fill out an online service request to have your cart picked up for repair or replacement.



Please note that property owners will receive a citation if their carts are not returned to their proper location by 10 p.m. on the night of pick-up.

Take Ownership of Your Neighborhood

There are many challenges facing the city, so it's important that everyone who lives in the community take ownership of their neighborhood. Indeed, a safe block is the cornerstone of thriving neighborhoods and a city that works. Alderman Murphy wants to remind you that block watches, neighborhood meetings, and good communication between residents and their city representatives are all critical elements to crime prevention.

A safe block is an alert and organized block. The best way to achieve this is by forming or joining a Block Watch neighborhood organization. Block Watch is a free, community-based, crime prevention program administered by the Community Services Division of the Milwaukee Police Department. The program's goal is to help residents organize their neighborhoods to prevent crime in the community. As you know, nobody knows a neighborhood better than the people who live in it.

Each police district employs a minimum of one community liaison officer and offers a series of crime analysis meetings for the district. Alderman Murphy highly encourages you to get involved in these meetings, as they are a great way to interact with neighbors while collaborating with police.

You can take part in the positive changes in your neighborhood. To get involved, call your respective Police District at one of the numbers below:

Police District 3: 935-7233

Police District 7: 935-7272

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10th District Alderman

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Milwaukee Arts Board – Grant Awards



Alderman Murphy joined Alderman Kovac (far left), Arts Board member David Flores, Arts Board Outstanding Artists of the Year Debra Loewen and Richard Taylor as well as Mayor Tom Barrett and Arts Board member William Robison during the award ceremony for the Artist of the Year event. Loewen is the artistic director of Wild Space Dance Company and Taylor is a local sculptor.

Me² Delivers Home Energy Savings



Milwaukee's Energy Efficiency program, Me², helps City of Milwaukee homeowners make energy-efficient home improvements such as insulation, air sealing, and new heating equipment. It's easy, affordable, and quality-inspected.

Me² makes improving your home easy! Just schedule a free, no-obligation visit with an Energy Advocate. The Energy Advocate will identify financial resources to help you upgrade your home such as a free* Energy Consultation, incentives from Focus on Energy, other special offers and a low-interest loan. Me² loans through Summit Credit Union are easy to apply for, require no home equity and have affordable terms up to 15 years. The Energy Advocate can also assist you through the process by helping you select approved consultants and contractors.

Next, Me² helps you get a professional Energy Consultation. An approved consultant will assess and test your home with the latest technology to identify air leaks, missing insulation and other energy saving opportunities.

Finally, get your home professionally upgraded according to the assessment report, and start saving on your energy bills! Me² is good for your home, good for your wallet, good for the environment and creates local jobs!

Visit www.smartenergypays.com or call 1-877-399-1203 (toll free) for more information or to schedule an Energy Advocate visit. Me² is brought to you by the City of Milwaukee Office of Environmental Sustainability, the US Department of Energy and Focus on Energy.

*Ask your Energy Advocate for details or visit www.smartenergypays.com.

VA Apartments Open on 35th St.



Alderman Murphy (here with Alderman Bob Bauman) speaks at an event for Veterans Manor: The Thomas H. Wynn Memorial Apartments at 35th St. and Wisconsin Ave. The project includes 52 units for veterans served by the Center for Veterans Issues. The Milwaukee Housing Trust Fund was a partner in this project.

Free Landlord Training

For future training dates call **286-2954** or to learn more about the program and view a class schedule log on to www.milwaukee.gov/landlordtraining