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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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May 4, 2012

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

## Alderwoman Coggs to take part in Beckum-Stapleton Little League opening day festivities

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs will be taking part in the opening day parade and festivities tomorrow (Saturday, May 5) marking the 48<sup>th</sup> season of the **Beckum-Stapleton Little League, Inc.**

The parade, which includes players and coaches from the various Beckum-Stapleton Little League teams, will start the festivities when it **steps off at W. Burleigh St. and N. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. at 11 a.m.** The parade will move south on King Drive to W. Brown St., and then west on Brown to Carver Park located at 911 W. Brown St.

“I am honored to again be a part of the opening day festivities for Beckum-Stapleton Little League, as it offers healthy and positive team athletics for boys and girls who can benefit greatly from working together as part of a team, and learning how to respect one another in an atmosphere of sportsmanship,” Alderwoman Coggs said.

The league was founded in 1964 by James Beckum, who played baseball in the Negro Leagues (East St. Louis Giants – 1954-1956) as well as in the Milwaukee County adult leagues. The Beckum-Stapleton Little League is the longest running baseball league for African-American children in the United States. The league played games at fields across the north side of Milwaukee County in various parks until former County Supervisor Clinton Rose assisted in establishing Carver Park as the official home park for the league.

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## **Beckum-Stapleton Opening Day/ADD ONE**

A portion of Carver Park north of Brown St. was renamed James W. Beckum Park in March 2012 in honor of the hard work and success James Beckum has provided to the park and the community since creating the Beckum-Stapleton Little League. Alderwoman Coggs said the community and the surrounding area have all benefited from the efforts of Mr. Beckum and his leagues for inner city youth by holding true to his mantra and mission “To promote, develop, supervise and voluntarily assist in all and lawful ways, the interest of those who will participate in Little League and softball.”

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