



May 22, 2012

Ald. Willie C. Wade  
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## Common Council approves new hotline to report vandalism to vacant buildings

The Common Council today approved a resolution directing the Department of Public Works to establish a tip hotline for reporting vandalism to vacant buildings.

**Alderman Willie C. Wade**, the primary sponsor of the tip hotline resolution, said the hotline is needed to address what has become a serious problem in many city neighborhoods. “Vandalism to vacant buildings should be a top concern of all city residents and stakeholders, because there is a direct and significant relationship between the vandalizing of vacant buildings and increased calls for police services, higher incidence of fires (both accidental and intentional), and a steady decline and disinvestment in neighborhoods,” he said, urging residents to call the number (see below) if they see or suspect vandalism to a vacant building.

Co-sponsors of the tip hotline resolution are **Alderman Milele A. Coggs** and **Alderman Ashanti Hamilton**.

Alderman Wade, vice chair of the Council’s Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee, was also the primary sponsor of file # 111512 (approved on April 11 by the Council), an ordinance establishing a penalty of \$1,000 to \$5,000 per violation for vandalizing a vacant building and causing more than \$500 damage to the property.

Callers who phone in information to the (WeTIP) hotline number – **1-800-78-CRIME** – may be eligible for cash rewards if the information provided leads to an arrest and conviction.