
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

February 9, 2012

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(414) 286-3285

Youth Council re-elects Komes as president, approves voter registration drive

Council also takes position opposing Senate Bill 207

The City of Milwaukee Youth Council voted Wednesday to re-elect **Zachary Komes** as president of the Council, and **Ben Scotty** was elected to serve as its vice president.

Zachary, who represents the 10th Aldermanic District and attends Rufus King High School, was elected to his first term as president of the Youth Council in February 2011. Ben, a sophomore at Rufus King representing the 4th Aldermanic District, replaces **Kayla Schmeling**, a 12th grader at Milwaukee School of Languages representing the 11th Aldermanic District.

In other matters, the Youth Council:

- Approved partnering with Milwaukee Public Schools on Voter ID law education and voter registration drive aimed at high school seniors who will likely be voting for the first time in 2012. A resolution pending before the MPS Board of School Directors would authorize MPS staff and resources for designing content and implementing the drive. The Youth Council would encourage the effort and would partner with community groups to help facilitate informational forums as the drive is launched and implemented.
- Voted to oppose Wisconsin 2011 **Senate Bill 207**, proposed state legislation permitting an employer to refuse to employ or to bar or terminate from employment an individual who has been convicted of a felony and who has not been pardoned for that felony. The bill has passed out of committee and is available for scheduling for a vote by the full Senate.

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Youth Council Actions/ADD ONE

Senate Bill 207 would preclude or nullify any city or county legislation that attempts to delay the disclosure of felony convictions in order to prevent discriminatory hiring practices, including Milwaukee County's "Ban the Box" resolution to remove questions pertaining to criminal convictions from the initial job application for prospective County employees (and which urges all public and private employers to do the same).

- Voted to support **Global Youth Service Day**. Global Youth Service Day, which will be held April 20 – 22, 2012, is a coordinated annual event which gathers young people around the world in conducting community service, service learning, and youth voice activities. For information about how to get involved with Global Youth Service Day, by organizing a service project or volunteering to help with a project near you, please visit <http://city.milwaukee.gov/Projects/LifeVenturesPartnership.htm> or contact **William Malone** at 286-5894 or william.malone@milwaukee.gov.

The next formal meeting of the full Youth Council will be at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11 in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

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