



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
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My Brother's Keeper: City's Black Male Achievement initiatives to be showcased

Key National League of Cities reps to see city efforts firsthand

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton will be joined by Mayor Tom Barrett as the city hosts a special site tour to showcase some of the programs being implemented to help improve the lives of black males in Milwaukee.

Called the **My Brother's Keeper - Black Male Achievement Advisory Council Site Tour**, the two-day tour kicks off tomorrow (Tuesday, August 26) and will welcome some key officials who are helping the Obama Administration administer the "My Brother's Keeper" black male achievement campaign.

The tour will include a **news conference Tuesday at 1 p.m.** in coordination with the Milwaukee Builds graduation ceremony at the **Northcott Neighborhood House, 2460 N. 6th St.** Alderman Hamilton and Mayor Barrett – co-chairs of the Black Male Achievement Advisory Council (BMAAC) – will be joined at the news conference by **Tyra Mariani**, Deputy Director for the National League of Cities, My Brother's Keeper Task Force and Chief of Staff for the Deputy Secretary of Education, and **Leon Andrews**, senior fellow at the NLC.

Alderman Hamilton said the Milwaukee Builds graduation, marking the successful end of an intensive construction jobs training initiative, is a fitting setting for the news conference. "There are a number of best practices recognized by the NLC and the My Brother's Keeper initiative, and the City of Milwaukee is attempting to expand on our own local initiatives that follow the strategic practices recognized by those nationally-recognized and successful programs and efforts," he said.

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MKE Site Tour/ADD ONE

The Milwaukee site visit will begin earlier Tuesday morning with the groundbreaking for the new Northwestern Mutual Life (NML) Tower and Commons project. Construction crews will soon begin building the \$450 million NML headquarters in downtown Milwaukee. As a result, many jobs will be created, at least 40% of which will be reserved for City of Milwaukee residents.

“Kicking our tour off at NML is not only indicative of Milwaukee’s economic growth prospects, but provides a direct visual link to the training and employment opportunities our visitors will witness throughout the day.

Other key stops during the site tour:

- **Milwaukee Builds.** Milwaukee Builds is administered by the city in collaboration with the Milwaukee Christian Center and Northcott Neighborhood House. It provides skilled apprenticeships to the building trades, utilizing on-the-job training and a Department of Labor approved educational and certification curriculum. The program trains on average 80 low-income residents annually, and 93% of participants are people of color.
- **Department of Public works Community Work Partnership.** This program will be a jobs model focusing on both training and employment (potentially transitional) similar to The Dombrowski Landscape Training Initiative (DLTI). Named after a former city employee who donated his estate to the City, the DLTI offers paid on-the-job training and an opportunity to earn special certifications in urban forestry. Launched in 2014, DLTI plans to recruit 30 participants who will be training on city tax foreclosed lots. After training is completed, there is an opportunity for seasonal employment.
- **Men’s Health Center.** The City of Milwaukee Health Department offers a one-stop shop for Milwaukee’s men. Services include assistance and referrals for a broad range of issues, from blood pressure to housing. A Public Health Nurse is available to deliver health promoting check-ups to individuals and prevention education to groups.

On Wednesday, August 27, the site tour will also include the meeting of the BMAAC at 10 a.m. in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. The committee will hear presentations from the city’s Homicide Review Commission, the Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative and the Be the Change/Safe Sons Collaborative.

In 2013 the National League of Cities Institute for Youth, Education and Families selected Milwaukee and 10 other cities from a pool of 28 applicants to receive assistance as the cities work to reduce disparities between black males and their peers. Over the course of the past 16 months, the NLC has provided technical assistance to assist city leaders as they’ve worked to develop and implement focused, cross-sector plans that are targeted toward meeting the needs of disadvantaged black male residents.