
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 21, 2014

Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II
(414) 286-2659

MEDIA ADVISORY

Rally tonight in new park named for voting rights hero

Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II and **State Senator Lena Taylor** will rally residents this evening to get out and vote November 4 with an event in a new park named for a Wisconsin civil rights hero. Ezekiel Gillespie (1818-1892) was an African-American civil rights and community leader who won a landmark court case securing voting rights in Wisconsin and founded Wisconsin's first African Methodist Episcopal church.

“When Ezekiel Gillespie fought for his right to vote, it was against those who overtly told him that the color of his skin disqualified him from participating in our democracy,” Alderman Stamper said. “Today, the effort to keep African Americans from voting is more subtle, but no less pernicious, and we as a community need to stand up and say ‘Our votes will be counted.’”

Alderman Stamper and Senator Taylor will be joined by leaders from throughout the Milwaukee community. Together they will provide participants with information about how the U.S. Supreme Court has blocked the state's voter ID requirement and urge residents to exercise their voting options.

Media coverage is invited.

What: “Own Your Vote” rally

When: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. TONIGHT, October 21

**Where: Ezekiel Gillespie Park
Corner of N. 14th and W. Wright Streets**