



Dear Residents,

There's nothing quite like the buzz and energy of Milwaukee's near south side. I'm happy to report that there are many exciting things in motion in the 12th Aldermanic District, and that I'm working hard to make this a wonderful place for all of us to call home.

Within this newsletter, I'll share with you some of the new business and education developments that will make the near south side an even more vibrant place to live. Foremost among them, the Milwaukee Area Technical College Board of Directors, on which I serve, has opened a new complex in the heart of Walker's Square. Along with this exciting new draw for the area, a number of other new businesses will bring their own distinct colors to the diverse tapestry of our district.

Residents of Walker's Point will also watch as new development begins to take place at the vacant site of the old Grede Foundry at S. 1st St. and E. Greenfield Ave. This development will include a much-needed grocery store for the area. Soccer players and fans will have a new venue to enjoy the sport, as work gets underway on a soccer field at the former site of the old South Stadium.

These and many other developments are outlined within the pages of this newsletter. As always, I want to stress that I am here to serve you, first and foremost. If there is anything I can do to help you with a neighborhood issue or answer your questions, please call me at 286-3762. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope you have a wonderful fall.

Respectfully,

José G. Pérez
Alderman, 12th District



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Vice-Chair

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee

Board Member

- Milwaukee Area Technical College
- NLC Hispanic Elected Local Officials

Member

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Anti-Graffiti Policy Committee
- Walker's Point Association
- National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials
- National League of Cities
- Walker Square Neighborhood Association
- Kinnickinnic River Association

View meetings at:

milwaukee.gov/citychannel.
Follow us on Twitter @MKE_CC, @cityofmilwaukee and @MKE_TV for City of Milwaukee Common Council and City Clerk news, info and updates.

Si usted tiene una pregunta o solicita traducción sobre este boletín de informes, favor de comunicarse con Maribel Murillo al 414-286-2861. Vaya a milwaukee.gov/district12 para noticias en español.

PLEASE ATTEND MY LISTENING SESSIONS – 6:00 p.m.

I have four listening sessions scheduled, during which I will meet with residents and discuss important issues affecting the 12th Aldermanic District and the city as a whole. I hope to see you at one or more of these meetings!

Monday, October 13, 2014

Lincoln Ave. Elementary School
1817 W. Lincoln Ave.

Monday, January 26, 2015

Escuela Vieau School
823 S. 4th St.

Monday, April 27, 2015

Albert E. Kagel Elementary School
1210 W. Mineral St.

Monday, July 20, 2015

South Division High School
1515 W. Lapham Blvd.

Cermak Grocery Store Among Big Developments Planned ➤

In the 10 years since Grede Foundries closed its plant at S. 1st St. and E. Greenfield Ave., the site has sat vacant. But now, the lot could become the thriving heart of new business development in Walker's Point with the construction of a Cermak Fresh Market and other improvements.

Locally-based Wangard Partners is heading the project to develop the seven-acre site. Plans could include a four-story mixed use building, a four-story office building with 45,000 square feet of space and a couple of stand-alone buildings. But Alderman Pérez said the grocery store will probably generate the most excitement among neighbors.

"I feel a grocery store will be a very good addition to the area, creating jobs and providing residents with a convenient solution to their shopping needs," Alderman Pérez said. "This development will complement many of the other exciting projects taking place on the near south side, especially the great strides being made by the UWM School of Freshwater Sciences."



An artist's rendering of the market, coming in 2015.

Feedback at public meetings on the plans has been overwhelmingly positive, Alderman Pérez said. As part of the deal, the city would pay for environmental cleanup and infrastructure, including a road leading into the property off of S. 1st St.

Developers expect to open the market in spring of 2015 as the first phase of development on the site. ■

Engine Company No. 3 Prepares for Opening ➤

Housed in a historic fire station originally built in 1904, Engine Company No. 3 plans to offer a breakfast and lunch menu during the week, and brunch on weekends. Similar to La Merenda, another of the owners' restaurants, the breakfast menu will feature many items created using locally-sourced ingredients. But the

attraction is more than culinary, it's historic as well. The building, located at 217 W. National Ave., is undergoing extensive renovations, including original woodwork that has been restored, reclaimed wood and sandblasted cream city brick, all aimed at bringing out the old building's charm. ■



New MATC Facility Opens in Walker’s Square ➤

A new Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) facility in Walker’s Square offers students the ability to register for programs, apply for financial aid and take classes all under the same south side roof.

The MATC Education Center at Walker’s Square opened at the intersection of S. 9th St. and W. National Ave., and is MATC’s fifth in the Milwaukee area. The building previously served as a business incubator, but Alderman Pérez said it had run its course in that role. Now, he said MATC can meet longstanding goals of expanding its offerings and presence on the near south side.

“This is great news for Walker’s Square,” Alderman Pérez said. “Not only will this help generate new economic activity in the area by bringing in new people and businesses, but it will also provide educational opportunities for those who call Walker’s Square their home. MATC’s new facility should not only be inclusive of the neighborhood, it should be for the neighborhood.”

Alderman Pérez, who also serves on the MATC Board, said the new facility offers a unique mix of traditional and cutting edge programs. Students can participate in offerings including English as a Second Language classes, bridge programs, apprenticeship tests and General Educational Development, or GED, programs.

Additionally, the new facility is home to technical school skilled trade programs focused on areas like bricklaying and plumbing, while carpentry and metalwork programs are in the works. Classes will even be offered to introduce students to the subject of freshwater sciences, a field that has taken root in the 12th Aldermanic District with the growing presence of the University of Wisconsin-



Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences, the Milwaukee Water Council and new businesses and incubators drawn to the “Freshwater Hub.”

“With this part of Milwaukee playing a growing role in the industry and science of fresh water, it’s only natural for MATC’s new offerings to provide students an opportunity to break into this exciting field,” Alderman Pérez said.

While MATC’s offerings are available to students of all ages, Alderman Pérez hopes that young residents of the neighborhood in particular will take an interest in the programs that are offered.

“The crucial first step toward pursuing a better life for one’s self is to be able to visualize the opportunities that could make it happen,” Alderman Pérez said. “MATC’s new facility represents many opportunities, providing residents with a path to success that begins right in their own backyard.” ■

IMPORTANT INFO FOR MINORITY BUSINESS OWNERS

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin

hccw.org
1021 W. National Ave.
Milwaukee, WI
53204
(414) 643-6963

Latino Entrepreneurial Network

lenwisconsin.com
612 W. National Ave.
Milwaukee, WI
53204
(414) 383-4633

African American Chamber of Commerce

aaccmke.org
6203 W. Capitol Dr.
Milwaukee, WI
53216
(414) 462-9450

Wisconsin Black Chamber of Commerce

twbcc.com
3020 W. Vliet St.
Milwaukee, WI
53233
(414) 306-6460

Hmong Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce

hmongchamber.org
3616 W. National Ave., Ste. 99
Milwaukee, WI
53215
(414) 645-8828

American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin

aiccw.org
10809 W. Lincoln Ave. #102
West Allis, WI 53227
(414) 604-2044

Despite South Side Soccer Success, Space is Scarce—Until Now

As if going 27-3 and winning a Division Three state title in the program's third year of existence wasn't enough, the Milwaukee Saint Anthony boys soccer team's 2012 championship season was made all the more impressive by one glaring fact—they never once, in the course of the season, enjoyed home-field advantage.

That's because, located on Milwaukee's south side at 4807 S. 2nd St., the high school is nestled in a neighborhood that is ironically home to some of the city's most notable soccer talent, but features an absolute desert of soccer fields. Instead of practicing and playing their games on a home field, programs like Saint Anthony and other south side soccer clubs often practice on subpar surfaces at parks, and play their games at whatever facility is available to them on the outskirts of town.

"We have a large, talented soccer community that didn't have a home," Alderman Pérez said. "It wasn't just an inconvenience for those players and their supporters,

it's money that was leaving the area as they traveled to places like Brookfield and Racine to gather, play their games and celebrate afterward."

But that's all changing, as the Milwaukee Public Schools and the City of Milwaukee begin work on a new, \$9 million soccer stadium on the former site of South Stadium adjacent to MPS's Hayes Bilingual School. The old stadium, which had outlived its useful life, was demolished this summer.

The new stadium, targeted to be completed by the end of the year, would host schools across MPS for both soccer and American football games, meeting growing demand for soccer space in the district.

"This will be a great addition to the options for soccer players and fans in the City of Milwaukee," Alderman Pérez said. "I hope it's the first of many accommodations that the city is able to make for our growing community of soccer players and fans." ■



ST. ANTHONY SOCCER TEAM

Winners of the 2012 WIAA Division Three state title, the Milwaukee Saint Anthony soccer team accepted congratulations and a resolution in their honor at a January meeting of the Milwaukee Common Council. In just its third season since organizing, the fledgling Roman Legion soccer program fought its way to a 27-3 record in its 2012 championship push. As representative of the 12th District, Alderman Pérez had the honor of presenting the team to his colleagues on the Common Council.

Jobs Available Raising New Tower Downtown >

Work is set to begin on a new high-rise office tower downtown that will reshape the city skyline, and City of Milwaukee residents will play a crucial role in building it.

As part of a deal negotiated with the Milwaukee Common Council, Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership (WRTP) will help Northwestern Mutual meet an objective in which 40 percent of the jobs on the site will go to residents of the City of Milwaukee. In addition, the program has a stated goal of connecting 350 people to a career in the construction trades and placing up to 150 workers on the job site.

Overall, the project is expected to create 1,000 construction jobs. Northwestern Mutual is building the 32-story, 550-foot tower next to its historic 1914 headquarters.

In order to connect residents with job and career opportunities on the project, Alderman Pérez held a job fair over the summer, and dozens attended. **To learn more, call WRTP/Big Step at (414) 342-9787.** ■



Planning Underway for New Library >

Opened in 1966, the Forest Home branch of the Milwaukee Public Library is on the list of library branches scheduled to be replaced under the 2014 city budget.

Alderman Pérez said that he is working with the library system to identify a site for a new, state-of-the-art facility on the near south side. The city is issuing a request for information to developers to begin the process of replacing Forest Home with a \$4.4 million mixed-use facility, and intends to open the new library by 2017.

“Our branch libraries are the nerve centers of our neighborhoods,” Alderman Pérez said. “Children can learn the value of reading, community members can participate in helpful programs and those in need can be connected with vital resources. This new library will be a great asset to residents of the 12th Aldermanic District.”

The Forest Home branch of the Milwaukee Public Library was scheduled for replacement because it’s an aging building with growing maintenance needs. The Mill Road, Capitol and Martin Luther King, Jr. branches will also be replaced over the next six years. The Tippecanoe branch is slated for a complete renovation but will remain in the same building.

Alderman Pérez said that in the months ahead, the city will hold public meetings to seek input on where the library should be located and what features it should include.

For more information and new developments, visit www.mpl.org or follow Milwaukee Public Library at [facebook.com/milwaukee.public.library](https://www.facebook.com/milwaukee.public.library) and on Twitter @milwaukeepublib. ■



REPORT FRAUD

It is everyone's job to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. If you suspect or witness any fraud, waste or abuse against City of Milwaukee resources, **TAKE ACTION** and **REPORT IT** to the Fraud Hotline at 286-3440, via email (hotline@milwaukee.gov), or online. See milwaukee.gov/comptroller.

Tips may be made anonymously. The Fraud Hotline ensures confidentiality and will not share contact information without consent.

Brush Should NOT Be Placed in the Street

Weeds and branches from trees and bushes should be called in for a special pickup (may include a fee). Grass clippings and large brush piles can be taken to one of the city's Self Help Centers for free. Brush should NOT be placed in the street or on the curb.

Placing brush in the street causes sewer catch basins to be clogged, which leads to ponding and flooding on neighborhood streets when it rains.

The city has two Self-Help locations – 3879 W. Lincoln Ave. and 6660 N. Industrial Rd. – where residents can bring larger amounts of brush as well as other trash for disposal. Between mid-October and mid-November, residents may place small amounts of soft brush (annuals, clippings, weeds, etc.) on top of leaf piles at the curb for pickup by city crews.

To find out more about disposing of brush, about Self-Help Center hours, or to request a special pickup (may include a fee), please call the Unified Call Center at 286-CITY(2489). ■

Second Chances Working for Milwaukee

Dozens of people trying to make a career for themselves after periods of unemployment or incarceration are finding second chances working for the City of Milwaukee through new transitional jobs programs.

One such program, approved this spring, created 25 positions to supplement Department of Public Works efforts to patch potholes and repair roads. In the program, which is administered by United Migrant Opportunity Services, participants earned a living wage of \$10.10 an hour working for a limited term with the city and gaining valuable on-the-job experience.

“For people who are down on their luck, sometimes all that's needed is for one employer to give them a chance,” Alderman Pérez said. “With the skills and experience these temporary employees will earn, they will be better qualified for permanent jobs that open up with the city or with private employers.”

“For people who are down on their luck, sometimes all that's needed is for one employer to give them a chance.”

Another program, the Dombrowski Landscape Training Initiative, focused on landscape maintenance of city-owned foreclosed and vacant properties. Thirty low-income participants earned valuable job skills and a number of certifications over the course of the 17-week program, all while cleaning up blight in urban neighborhoods. The program was made possible by the bequest of the late Department of Public Works employee, David John Dombrowski. ■



IMPACT ★
2-1-1™
Get Connected. Get Answers.

Simply call 211 to get help with life.
Cell: (414) 773-0211
Free: (866) 211-3380
United Way of greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

Strong Neighborhoods Plan Targets Foreclosure Problems

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan, a centerpiece of Mayor Tom Barrett's 2014 budget, provides \$11.8 million to redouble city efforts to reduce the number and mitigate the impacts of tax-foreclosed properties that the city owns.

The Department of City Development (DCD) is responsible for managing and marketing that inventory. Alderman Pérez was a supporter of the budget item that initiated the program. DCD staffers are now moving forward on many fronts to implement the Strong Neighborhoods Plan, and the number of personnel devoted to these tasks is growing.

The current inventory of tax-foreclosed buildings is nearly 1,200. Real estate staff members handle the intake of tax-foreclosed properties, inspecting them, negotiating leases with tenants living in units at the time of foreclosure, arranging to re-key and board vacant properties, referring some properties for demolition and marketing the inventory that can be redeveloped.

The Strong Neighborhoods Plan funds this work, along with several new programs: a rent-to-own initiative that helps tenants purchase the houses in which they live; a pilot program that allows licensed real estate brokers to market properties; new loan and grant programs to encourage the purchase and renovation of foreclosed properties; the artistic board-up program that involves young people in creating visual art on boarded properties; and a vacant lot beautification effort. Housing development and preservation staff also are involved in these initiatives.

Alderman Pérez noted the DCD's increased attention to neighborhoods is a positive step for the city. Now a member of the Common Council's Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee, the Alderman said that while oftentimes development focuses on the city's commercial corridors, he has pushed to shift efforts to where people live.

"Our commercial corridors cannot succeed if our neighborhoods are struggling," Alderman Pérez said. "I'm glad that the Department of City Development is willing to rethink their approach to development and try new, promising tactics."

To learn more, visit the DCD website at milwaukee.gov/cityrealestate. ■



Homebuyer Assistance Program

Forgivable Loans up to \$20,000 for the Rehabilitation of City-Owned Homes

Are you interested in purchasing and fixing up a city-owned home? As part of Mayor Barrett's Strong Neighborhoods Plan, the City of Milwaukee's Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC) is providing fully forgivable loans of up to \$20,000 to assist owner-occupant buyers with the rehabilitation of city-owned foreclosed homes.

The Homebuyer Assistance Program is available throughout the City of Milwaukee, is not limited to first time homebuyers, and has no maximum income limits for qualification. As part of the program, applicants are provided free technical assistance to help with scope of work development, soliciting bids from licensed contractors, and monitoring rehabilitation. Attend the next Homebuyer Orientation Session to learn more about this exciting opportunity!

Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Washington Park Library, 2121 N. Sherman Blvd.
(2nd floor meeting room)

To learn more about the program and view property listings, contact NIDC at (414) 286-5610 or NIDC@milwaukee.gov or visit the website at www.milwaukee.gov/HBA. ■

\$500 Roots Landscaping Incentive

The Roots incentive offers an additional reimbursement of \$500 and is exclusively for city-owned properties sold to owner-occupants. This cash-back reward allows for landscaping that includes flowers, sod, grass seed, bushes and fencing. **To learn more, visit the ROOTS website at www.milwaukee.gov/roots.** ■

SIGN UP FOR CITY REAL ESTATE NEWS

Sign up for E-notify to receive the monthly City Real Estate E-newsletter and be the first to know when new properties are listed on our website. Subscribe to "City-Owned Homes" under New Property Sales Listings. **To sign up, go to milwaukee.gov/enotify.**

Policing Problem Businesses Is a Team Effort ➤

In his role as a member of the Common Council, Alderman Pérez helps make important decisions that sometimes pit the livelihoods and responsibilities of business owners against the needs and desires of their neighbors. It's a challenging balance to strike, Alderman Pérez said, and a job that relies upon critical input from the people who are most familiar with the situations in question.

“The vast majority of tavern, store and restaurant owners in my district do a good job of following the rules, and contribute to the vibrancy that makes the 12th Aldermanic District such a draw for visitors, residents and economic development,” Alderman Pérez said. “But if a business is causing problems for its neighbors and not holding up its end of the bargain, I would ask those neighbors to please report that business to the city so that those problems can be addressed.”

Alderman Pérez recommends the following steps for dealing with a problem establishment:

- 1. Talk to the owner or operator.** This might seem obvious, but it is easy to overlook. Private, civil communication beats a formal process every time. Most owners want to be good neighbors and respond to the reasonable concerns of those around them.
- 2. Call the police.** Many things that happen at unruly establishments aren't just inconvenient, they're crimes. Report these crimes to police. Keep a record of when and why you called. Records like that can be very helpful during a hearing process. (See “Keep a Log of Calls to Police.”)
- 3. Communicate with Alderman Pérez, your Common Council representative.** You can reach his office at 286-3762 or email dist12aide@milwaukee.gov. Make your concerns known and find out what the most effective way to proceed will be.
- 4. File a complaint.** These must be written and, in some cases, notarized. They should be filed with the License Division. The complaint can be brief, but should set forth the facts you think warrant discipline against the establishment. Please be advised that if you don't mention a particular reason in your original complaint, that reason cannot be used against the establishment as grounds for discipline. Complainants should not wait until the date on which a license is to expire to file their complaint.
- 5. Attend a hearing.** Whenever a licensee is faced with potential discipline, he or she will be scheduled to appear before a meeting of the Common Council's Licenses Committee. These meetings are held approximately every three weeks at City Hall, during the business day. Notices of these meetings are mailed in advance to residents within 250 feet of the establishment. It is extremely important that citizens attend these hearings, because unfortunately, merely submitting a letter for the record is not enough.

Hearings can be quite lengthy, but they take place to safeguard the rights of license-holders. At a hearing, sworn testimony will be taken, evidence will be read into the record and, eventually, members of the committee will make a recommendation to the Common Council. That recommendation will likely be heard at the next Council meeting, and is not final until the Common Council acts, accepting, rejecting or amending the decision.

For information on hearing dates, call the License Division at 286-2238. ■

KEEP A LOG OF CALLS TO POLICE

Very often, it takes a concerted effort to address problems with unruly neighbors or businesses. Alderman Pérez said that, in order to make sure that your concerns are addressed, you should call the police whenever necessary—and then document your call in case you need to reference it with operators or the Alderman's office.

Alderman Pérez has a handy call log that you can obtain from his office, or by downloading it and printing it yourself at his website, milwaukee.gov/District12.

The form is titled "Complaint Log: Registro de Quejas" and has five columns: Date/Fecha, Time/Hora, Operator's Name/Miembro de Operador, Complaint/Queja, and Response/Respuesta. Below the columns is a table with 10 empty rows for recording complaints. At the bottom left, there is a logo for "JOSÉ PÉREZ" and contact information: "12th District Alderman José Pérez, 286-3762 - jose@milwaukee.gov, www.milwaukee.gov/district12".

New Policing Techniques Keeping Crime and Disorder in Check >

New efforts to curb crime and other nuisances on the near south side are meeting with success, and a group of law enforcement officers known as the Community Prosecution Unit (CPU) is at the heart of that effort.

The CPU is tasked with handling long term problems that often cannot be handled with a single call for service to the police department, with a focus on nuisance properties that are the scene of repeated problems at the same address such as drug dealing, trouble with neighbors and loud music. It's a big, broad job.

"The CPU is doing something different every day," Alderman Pérez said. "They handle loud music, loitering, illegal drug activity, disorderly conduct problems, animals disturbing the peace, licensed premise violations, problems with taverns, drug houses, gang houses and other issues. They are also active at community meetings with residents to find out about any problem locations in their neighborhoods."

The CPU is comprised of five police officers and supervised by one sergeant. But the effort to crack down on near south side crime has also included stepped up foot patrols through problem areas. **Contact the CPU at 935-7763.** ■



Alderman Pérez announces a new measure to combat drugs and prostitution in a news conference at Christ Evangelical Lutheran School.

RESPONSIBILITIES AS A LICENSE HOLDER BEGIN LONG BEFORE DOORS OPEN

Entrepreneurs who are opening a new establishment have countless items to cross off their to-do lists before they can open their doors to the public. But all too often, Alderman Pérez said they forget the crucial step of getting to know the neighbors, including the Alderman himself.

"These meetings should happen well before a potential business owner signs a lease for a location or invests any money into the venture," Alderman Pérez said, "because they can give the entrepreneur an idea as to the history of the site and how the neighborhood might react to the proposal in question." In some cases, the circumstances surrounding an area's past and present might rule out the future possibility of opening a particular type of business there.

"Until you know your license to operate is secure, you should avoid making any serious commitments to a venture," Alderman Pérez said. "My office is here to help people understand the obstacles they might face, and navigate them as well as we can."

The fact that a premises currently holds, or previously has held, an alcohol beverage retail establishment license does not automatically provide or otherwise guarantee that a new applicant for the same location will be granted an alcohol license. The fact that a premises currently holds an alcohol license relates to the fitness of the location to be operated as a licensed premises, which is one of several factors considered at the time an alcohol license is granted.

To learn more, visit milwaukee.gov/license.

Alderman Pérez: Fairness Should Be a Top Priority in Ongoing Immigration Debate ➤

With the debate over immigration reform continuing in Washington, Alderman Pérez is both hopeful about what results it might yield, and worried about the ugly tendencies it might reveal in some factions.

“This is a contentious issue for people on both sides,” Alderman Pérez said, “but I hope that the participants maintain a high degree of respect and decorum, and remember that this is more than just a talking point for millions of Americans—it’s their lives and livelihoods.” Alderman Pérez believes that fairness should be a top priority in whatever immigration compromise is eventually reached in the U.S. House and Senate.

“Most undocumented immigrants have the ability to work, they obey the law and they contribute in other ways to making their communities and the nation as a whole stronger,” Alderman Pérez said. “In these types of cases, I believe it is only fair to provide these otherwise law-abiding people with a path to citizenship.”

“The citizenship process shouldn’t be intimidating, and it shouldn’t be rooted in racism,” Alderman Pérez said. “It should be an equitable process that ensures that anyone who has come to this country to work hard and make a better life for their family should be able to do so with the blessing of the U.S. government.”

Alderman Pérez points out that the 2010 U.S. census estimated the nation’s Latino population at more than 50 million, and that every day, more than 50,000 Latinos turn 18 and become legal voters. He hopes sincerely that Washington politicians do not turn immigration into a wedge issue to drive people apart.

In 2013, the Department of Homeland Security reports that a total of 990,553 persons became lawful permanent residents of the United States. The majority of these new LPRs (54 percent) already lived in the United States when they were granted lawful permanent residence. Sixty-six percent of new LPRs were granted permanent resident status based on a family relationship with a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident of the U.S.

“Immigration is an issue that touches everyone—not just Latinos,” Alderman Pérez said. “Many of us came to this country as immigrants from all around the world. Now that we have established ourselves and found success in America, we shouldn’t turn our backs on those who are still waiting for their shot.” ■



Alderman Pérez and Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. hosted an immigration summit last year at Milwaukee Public Library’s Centennial Hall. The event featured a discussion of immigration reform and how it could affect Milwaukee, with a variety of experts discussing the legal, family and community aspects of the topic.

Among the summit events, Alderman Pérez moderated a panel of community members who shared their stories, experiences and concerns about immigration reform.

“ Many of us came to this country as immigrants from all around the world. Now that we have established ourselves and found success in America, we shouldn’t turn our backs on those who are still waiting for their shot. ”

Alderman Pérez Appointed to NLC Hispanic Leadership Post >

Alderman Pérez has been appointed to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) for the National League of Cities (NLC).

Alderman Pérez was appointed to the post during the National League of Cities’ March 2013 Congressional City Conference in Washington, D.C. The four-day NLC conference is an annual legislative forum that brings together more than 2,000 elected and appointed local officials to discuss federal policies that are important to local governments.

Alderman Pérez is the first Milwaukeean and the first Wisconsin official to be appointed to the HELO board. “It is an honor to receive this appointment, and I look forward to offering my insights and ideas to the many excellent initiatives and activities of HELO,” Alderman Pérez said.

The HELO constituency group was established by NLC in 1976 to serve as a forum for communication and information exchange among Hispanic local government elected officials and NLC colleagues. In addition to providing training and information services to its members, HELO also provides guidance to the NLC Board and to its policy committees on major public policy issues affecting the Hispanic and Latino communities.

In recent years, these issues, brought forth by HELO’s Board of Directors, have included the education of Hispanic youth, immigration reform, bilingual education, voting rights and minority business enterprise programs.

“This is a chance for me, as an elected official, to work one-on-one with policymakers from all over the country, and to discover best practices that can be implemented to improve the quality of life for citizens throughout Milwaukee,” Alderman Pérez said. ■



Alderman Pérez joined Mayor Tom Barrett last year in entertaining a visiting delegation from Tonalá, Jalisco, México, including Mayor Jorge Arana Arana and his wife, María Guadalupe Orozco de Arana.

Southsiders Take Pride in Their Neighborhoods >

Neighborhoods are healthiest when residents join together with city officials and each other to tidy up and celebrate the things that make Milwaukee great. Alderman Pérez invites residents to organize neighborhood cleanups, and can offer logistical help in organizing them.

In one such event, more than 450 people turned out at a Zilber Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative Spring Cleanup. Neighbors rallied at the Journey House Playground and picked up supplies, then returned in groups to their individual neighborhoods to dispose of garbage and clean the area.

The event wrapped up at South Division High School with food and entertainment, along with a soccer tournament and college fair at Journey House.

“It’s incredibly heartening to see all these people taking responsibility for the well-being of their neighborhoods,” Alderman Pérez said. “There’s no better way to welcome in spring than with a well-kept, orderly neighborhood and a day spent out in the warm weather.”

Alderman Pérez said the cleanup will be more than just an annual occurrence. Organizers are looking at scheduling similar events in the summer and fall as well.

Anyone interested in organizing a cleanup in their neighborhood or finding out how they can help can call Alderman Pérez’s office at 286-3762 or email dist12aide@milwaukee.gov for more information. ■

DISTRICT 12

ALDERMAN
JOSÉ G.

PÉREZ



200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-3762 | www.milwaukee.gov/district12 | jperez@milwaukee.gov

AUTUMN 14



José G. Pérez
Alderman, 12th District
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Milwaukee, WI
Permit No. 4678

Residents of the 12th Aldermanic District pitch in to clean up parts of the south side during a recent neighborhood cleanup. Learn more about how you can take pride in your neighborhood on page 11.

Walk With Alderman Pérez in Your Neighborhood



At least once a week, Alderman Pérez conducts neighborhood walkthroughs to learn about residents' concerns and to see conditions firsthand. He is typically accompanied by police officers, officials from the Department of Neighborhood Services and the Department of Public Works and other community leaders.

On occasion, the walkthroughs take place at night. "There's no better way for me to serve my constituents than by speaking with them in person and seeing their concerns firsthand," Alderman Pérez said.

Please join the alderman when he comes to your area. If you would like Alderman Pérez to visit your block or neighborhood, please call his office at 286-3762. ■

