

## JOE DAVIS, SR.

Alderman, 2nd District

### CHAIR

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Sister Cities Committee

### VICE CHAIR

- National League of Cities' International Council

### CO-CHAIR

- Black Male Achievement Advisory Council (BMAAC)



### MEMBER

- Public Safety Committee
- Public Works Committee
- Steering and Rules Committee
- Deferred Compensation Board
- Milwaukee Economic Development Corporation
- National League of Cities' Board of Directors
- National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials Board of Directors

### HONORARY CONSUL

- Republic of South Africa – State of Wisconsin

## Milwaukee earns a dubious ranking while the Mayor basks in streetcar fanfare

Statement from Alderman Joe Davis, Sr.  
February 20, 2015

This week the City of Milwaukee again received a national ranking, but not for the image that is beneficial for the city's long-term economic growth (<http://www.cbsnews.com/media/americas-11-poorest-cities/>). The City of Milwaukee's poverty rate is unsustainable and our unemployment rate among the minority community is staggering.

The month of January saw 15 Milwaukee homicides and I have tried to ring the alarm to city leaders and publicly stated that our city is broken, while others continue the same direction of concentrated investment and remain silent with a status quo approach. I cringed as we approved the recent Streetcar project with so many related unresolved issues with the project, such as land acquisition of the Couture developer, final completion of the design for the entire system, making the taxpayer pay for the relocation of the utilities for the project, and most importantly, no definitive answers on how this Streetcar project will reduce poverty and attract investment in the areas of greatest needs in the City of Milwaukee (areas that have the highest concentrations of impoverished Milwaukeeans).

But once again, we did not blink on the magnitude of the investment made while other parts of the city deteriorate. While the Mayor immediately signed this piece of legislation for the Streetcar funding at a huge fanfare event at the Pabst Theater, HIS city is now ranked as the 2<sup>nd</sup> poorest major city in the nation. I've heard the leadership of the city, including the Mayor, comment that "we don't want to become another Detroit."

Well after this *CBS News* report, we are well on our way to exactly what he and others say the City of Milwaukee should not be.

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