



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

**Joint Statement from members of the Common Council
January 23, 2015—For Immediate Release**

Well thought-out and well-chosen words can heal and enlighten. Unfortunately, not-so-well-chosen words can also spread fear and ignorance.

The hurtful and divisive comments Alderman Joe Dudzik made on a radio program yesterday regarding the streetcar project were baseless and do not warrant repeating. However, we must address them because we believe we cannot move Milwaukee forward by dismissing or avoiding the message they carry.

The message of fear and divisiveness at the heart of the comments is not what we stand for as members of the Common Council, nor does the message resonate in our community. We stand together and embrace our rich and diverse city, built by generations of good and hardworking people, and we celebrate our neighborhoods where people of all colors, religions, and ethnicities live, work and play together. We are united in our belief that our city's best days lie ahead.

In addition, Alderman Dudzik's reference to sexual assault -- used as a scare tactic in a political debate about a transportation project -- is disappointing and completely devoid of any factual basis. Rape and sexual assault should never be used to advance a political position or to stir fear in the hearts of our citizens.

Going forward, we will continue to focus the debate on the merits of the project, in hopes of cultivating an informative conversation about the streetcar. We fully expect our colleagues and others to do the same.

Signed,

Ald. Michael J. Murphy

Ald. Ashanti Hamilton

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.

Ald. Nik Kovac

Ald. Robert Bauman

Ald. Milele A. Coggs

Ald. Willie C. Wade

Ald. José G. Pérez

Ald. Terry L. Witkowski

Ald. Tony Zielinski

Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II

Ald. James A. Bohl, Jr.