



Dear Neighbor,

Excitement is building about the future of the 12th District, as several key projects are either moving forward or in the planning stage. For example, there is the new development in Walker's Point of the Cermak Fresh Market at S. 1st and Greenfield, bringing new life to a former industrial site while creating jobs and providing residents with a convenient solution to their shopping needs.

There is also the recently opened MATC Education Center at Walker's Square at the intersection of S. 9th St. and W. National Ave. I am honored to serve on the MATC Board, and the new facility offers a unique mix of traditional and cutting edge programs, and it is home to technical school skilled trade programs focused on areas like bricklaying and plumbing, while carpentry and electrical programs are in the works. We are seeing a development boom, and as construction continues on major projects downtown—including a \$500 million project to build a new arena for the Bucks (and surrounding development projects)—it is imperative that training be available to help our workers access those construction and trades jobs. 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."

There is much to be positive about in the 12th District, and I invite you to contact me if you should ever need assistance or if you have questions. I can be reached at 414-286-3762.

Have a safe and peaceful remainder of 2015 and into the New Year!

José G. Pérez
Alderman, 12th District



Walker Square Planning Process Going Strong

The Walker Square Action Plan process is going strong and has gained public input and engagement, and Alderman Pérez is looking forward to building on the sustained energy and interest. A draft plan should be available for review by the public by late December, and when ready it will be posted on the Walker Square Plan website (milwaukee.gov/AreaPlans/NearSouth/WalkerSquare) and city planners will send a notice to the subscribers of the Near South Side Plan E-Notify category when it is available for review.

Public input on the draft plan will be sought at a meeting of the Walker Square Neighborhood Association to be scheduled in January.

"The future of the Walker Square neighborhood's commercial and residential areas is deserving of the community's vision and ideas, and I am pleased residents and business owners have stepped forward and are participating in the planning process," Alderman Pérez said.

Partners in the planning process have included the Walker Square Neighborhood Association, MATC—Walker Square Campus, and the South Side Organizing Committee.

Community members have been asked to give input on the Action Plan for the Walker Square neighborhood being prepared by the City of Milwaukee's Department of City Development. The Action Plan covers the area bounded by S. 6th St. on the east, S. Cesar Chavez Dr. on the west, W. Pierce St. on the north, and W. Greenfield Ave. on the south. The plan will address housing, public spaces, commercial areas, and bicycle and pedestrian concerns.

Want to share your feedback? Email nearsouthsideplan@milwaukee.gov. Want to get information and updates about the planning process sent directly to your email address? Subscribe to receive E-Notify updates in the "Near South Side Plan" category at milwaukee.gov/enotify. ■



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Alderman Pérez joined several of his Common Council colleagues after a special signing ceremony in September to approve the development agreement with the Milwaukee Bucks that will enable the team to begin construction of a state-of-the-art arena to replace the Bradley Center just north of the current site in downtown Milwaukee. The city will not spend any property tax money to help the Bucks finance the arena, and the Council approved amendments to the agreement, including a measure that would allow the city to take back ownership of the “live block” along N. 4th St. between Juneau and Highland if the Bucks cease operation of the public plaza planned there. The Common Council voted 12-3 on September 22 to approve the development agreement.

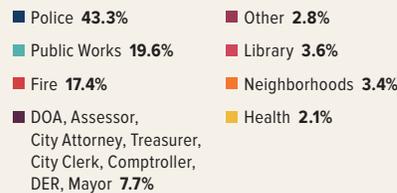
2016 Budget Focused on Comprehensive Approach to Public Safety

Earlier this month, the Common Council approved a 2016 city budget focused on job creation, economic development, public safety and expanded access to libraries—all while providing tax relief to homeowners. The amended budget funds the hiring of 120 police officers—20 more than the Mayor had originally proposed. But Alderman Pérez, who played a key role in the budget process as a member of the Finance and Personnel Committee, said this spending plan calls upon many city departments—not just MPD—to bring catalytic, positive change in the area of public safety.

“This council recognizes the need for a more comprehensive approach to public safety than just putting more cops on the street, and this budget reflects that,” Alderman Pérez said. “Our renewed focus on providing trauma-informed care to the victims of violent crime, organizing communities to be better engaged and generating economic opportunities for everyone will help treat the root causes of crime—not just the symptoms.”

The adopted budget holds steady on the tax levy at \$256.7 million. But with the city’s tax base expanding again in the wake of the foreclosure

Tax Levy-Funded Operating Budget: By Department



Note: Does not include \$299.66 million of DPW-operated Enterprise Funds (Parking, Sewer, Water). Three departments (DPW, Police, Fire) comprise 80.3% of the 2016 Operating Budget.

crisis, the end result is a slight decline in the tax rate, from \$10.71 to \$10.59 per \$1,000 of assessed value. For a \$104,000 median-valued Milwaukee home, that would equate to a \$13 tax cut to \$1,101 for the year in city taxes. ■

As a result of amendments made by the Common Council:

- 20 additional police officers will be hired beyond the 100 proposed by the Mayor.
- The city will add seven Police Community Service Officers, non-sworn MPD staffers who make policing more efficient by attending to lower priority calls for service. The new PCSOs will complement the class of 10 PCSOs that is currently training for the program’s launch.
- An enhanced city Safe Zones initiative will go forward, combating crime by training members of disadvantaged communities to mediate conflicts that can otherwise erupt in violence.
- Library branches that were closed on Fridays or Saturdays will be able to reopen on those days.

The budget also:

- Equips all police officers with body-worn video cameras
- Requires police to contribute to their pensions, as other city employees already do
- Continues the new trauma-informed care effort, which matches victims of and witnesses to violent crime with the mental health services they need
- Adds two Health Department positions to coordinate efforts to address youth violence
- Directs \$10.9 million toward neighborhood revitalization and stabilization efforts to combat the effects of the foreclosure crisis
- Includes to replace Forest Home and Mill Road Libraries