



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR INFORMATION CALL

June 9, 2017

Ald. Milele A. Coggs
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“We Got This” work initiative starts its 2017 session Saturday

Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs is pleased to announce that the “We Got This” work and mentoring initiative for boys ages 12 to 16 begins its 2017 session **tomorrow (Saturday, June 10) at 8 a.m. at N. 9th St. and W. Ring.**

Alderwoman Coggs said she is looking forward to the boys being ready and eager to be a part of the project again, and that generous donors can once again step up and provide the support that helps provide the positive reward for the work the boys complete.

“We Got This provides each boy with a cleaning or landscaping assignment in their neighborhood and a small amount of money is paid to each for their work,” Alderwoman Coggs said. “But the initiative is also valuable mentoring and a positive reinforcement vehicle for the boys, who very much need positive role models and experiences in their lives.”

Motivated by concern for neighborhood boys surrounded by drugs, violence and a degree of hopelessness, community mentor and leader **Andre Lee Ellis** started We Got This in the summer of 2014 (please visit the website <https://wegotthismke.com> for more information).

Mr. Ellis decided to begin the We Got This work initiative on Saturday mornings (from 8 a.m. until noon) in the Borchert Field neighborhood so boys and teens could receive pay for landscaping and gardening work, as well as neighborhood cleaning and other small projects. Dozens of young teens -- ready and willing to work -- started showing up, with numbers steadily increasing each week. He put out a request on Facebook for help with donations, and people from across the community (and metro area) responded, including many who drove to the neighborhood to meet the participants and provide positive support.

This will be the fourth year of the work initiative, which has given many youths the opportunity to build a good work ethic and has kept many on a positive path.

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