

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE CHAIR

• Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development

MEMBER

• Community and Economic Development
• Licenses



KHALIF J. RAINEY
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

Shelter facilities offer safe option in desperate times

**Statement of Alderman Khalif J. Rainey
November 2, 2017**

Across Milwaukee and across America, families are often a mere paycheck away from homelessness and displacement. Sadly, there was a stark reminder of this fact on Tuesday when media reports highlighted the case of police involvement at a home near N. 29th and Locust in the 7th District.

A woman who had been evicted from the home had nowhere to turn and made her way back in to the unheated residence with her two-year-old son. Police arrived and made sure the boy was warm and even bought him some food, and Child Protective Services took custody of the boy and the mother was assisted with finding permanent shelter.

But for me this sad situation was truly wrenching to see.

In Milwaukee, low-income renters too often can fall into jeopardy of being evicted, with no family or friend as a temporary option for shelter. Additionally Milwaukee has a shortage of affordable housing for low-income people, making options few and far between for many families and individuals. According to author Matthew Desmond (“Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City”), more than one in five of all renting families in the U.S. spend half of their income on housing.

As the winter cold quickly approaches I urge anyone who needs shelter or who knows someone who could soon need shelter to contact Impact Inc. (just dial 2-1-1 or 414-256-4808) and ask about shelter options. Milwaukee has many shelter resources, including the Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Hope House, The Cathedral Center and the Sojourner Family Peace Center, just to name a few.

Warm and decent affordable housing should be a basic human right – here in Milwaukee and across America.

-30-