

Hamilton Launches Effort to Raze Blighted Properties in Milwaukee’s Central City >

Alderman Hamilton has launched an initiative to eliminate severely blighted properties in Milwaukee’s central city. The new blight-fighting endeavor -- called “Out of Harm’s Way” -- was launched last year at 4051 N. 27th St., at the site of the old Citation plant buildings (located just north of Capitol Drive and south of W. Hope Ave.)

“Out of Harm’s Way” will advocate public/private partnerships that will demolish abandoned, dangerous and unsanitary properties in the city’s Promise Zones and make way for new growth, opportunity and a renewed sense of safety in the city.



Promise Zones are areas throughout the city which have been identified by Alderman Hamilton and other elected officials. It has been determined that these zones are more likely to be targeted by criminal behavior and overwhelmed by poverty, unemployment and homelessness.

“We are striving to eliminate severely damaged properties in the city that have served as hiding places for criminal behavior, and we plan to get our community out of harm’s way from threats like vandalism, theft and intimidation,” Alderman Hamilton said. ■



Council Approves Safety and Civic Commission >

In April the full Common Council voted to re-create the former Safety Commission as the Safety and Civic Commission, a key city body charged with recommending city-wide measures to improve overall safety, wellbeing and health. The Commission will be composed of three members appointed by the Mayor and 15 members appointed by Council members (one per district).

The ordinance governing the new Commission further provides for:

- up to 10 advisors to staff/assist it
- support staff housed in the Police Department
- bylaw creation power
- a highway safety coordinator appointed by the Mayor

President Hamilton pointed to the re-creation of the Safety Commission as an indication of the critical need for citizen guidance. “The goal of the Safety and Civic Commission will be to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee by improving safety and addressing city-wide problems through effective, targeted public education and public information efforts. It will help lead a push that I believe will lift the community as a whole,” he said.

Issues the new Commission will deal with include traffic safety for motor vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles, reducing the demand for drugs, raising educational achievement, raising school attendance and graduation rates, improving parenting skills, and reducing littering. ■



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ALDERMAN ASHANTI HAMILTON



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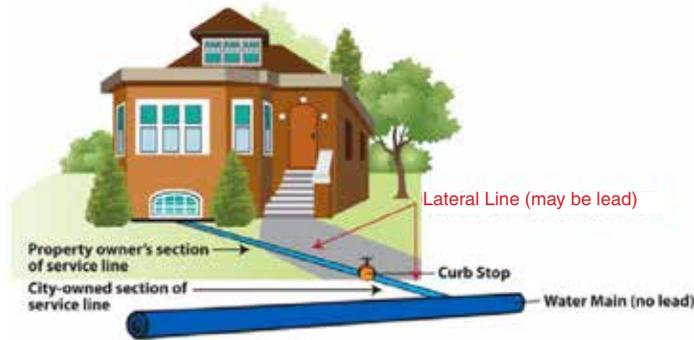
Alderman Hamilton spoke during a news event last December to help announce improvements to Milwaukee’s drug disposal program. Adding to drop boxes already located at police district stations, those wishing to get rid of unused medications can now pick up pre-paid envelopes at those same police stations, as well as at Milwaukee CVS stores, and mail in unused meds for environmentally safe disposal. Milwaukee leads the way with this new mail-back program, the first in the nation.



Ashanti Hamilton
Alderman, 1st District
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Reducing Lead in the Water and Saving Money



In an effort to protect public health, the city is planning to replace lead water service lines.

How will this be done? To answer that question, there are a few definitions to clarify: The “main” is the water line (large pipe) that runs down the middle of the street in front of your house. To get water from the main to your home, there is a smaller pipe called the “lateral.” Most homes built before 1951 have lead laterals.

Currently, if there is a leak in the main, the city is responsible for replacing that main. But if your lateral line is leaking, you are responsible to have it either repaired or replaced. The problem is that if you repair the lateral instead of replacing it, the lead in the pipe can be disrupted, thereby possibly increasing the amount of lead in your drinking water. The same thing happens when the city replaces the water main but doesn’t replace the lateral.

In the 2017 budget, the city adopted a policy under which it will require all laterals that break to be replaced. In addition, if the city replaces your water main as part of a road construction project, your lead lateral will have to be replaced as well.

“The cost of replacing a lateral can be high – often as much as \$5,000. That’s why I supported a proposal to ensure that homeowners would pay no more than \$1,600 to replace their laterals,” Alderman Hamilton said. “So instead of paying \$5,000 you pay \$1,600. Moreover, you can take up to 10 years to pay the \$1,600 at a very low rate of interest.”

To summarize, you will be paying much less to have the lateral replaced and you will be significantly lowering the amount of lead in your water. ■



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Bucks are Hiring City Residents, Making Numbers >

In approving the agreement to allow the Milwaukee Bucks to build the new arena, the Common Council required the Bucks' contractors to hire city residents for 40% of construction jobs on the \$524 million arena and parking garage project.

According to Alderman Hamilton, through the first 10 months of construction, the Bucks are hitting their hiring marks, and are poised to exceed them. "City residents were hired and have been working on the project in depth for some time, and what is exciting to me is that they (residents) now represent real construction jobs for current and future generations of City of Milwaukee residents," he said.

"Residents have stepped up and have shown that they are able to handle the construction work and related training," Alderman Hamilton said. "These jobs are in high demand as our city is going through a construction boom, and that helps boost our population through much-needed income and benefits, and it is expanding the talent pool for much-needed workers in the construction industry."

The Bucks arena is expected to open in late 2018. "It is a win-win-



win and I credit the Bucks and the partnerships they've forged with Employ Milwaukee and WRTP/BIG STEP (Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership/Building Industry Group Skilled Trades Employment Program), and others to attract workers," he said. ■

Alderman Hamilton Holds Firm on 2017 Budget >

Alderman Hamilton voted to keep job creation and economic development as top priorities when he and his Common Council colleagues tallied final votes on the amended adopted city budget for 2017.

During the budget adoption meeting at City Hall in November, Alderman Hamilton moved to help address systemic disparities in disadvantaged neighborhoods by voting for an amendment to repurpose more than \$500,000 to support the Milwaukee Promise Zones program. Neighborhoods will benefit from intensive efforts including the presence of beat patrol officers from May to October, neighborhood clean-ups, senior citizen homeowner assistance, various job training programs and a high impact service program.

Alderman Hamilton also voted to support creating \$600,000 in borrowing authority to fund the property owner portion of lead water service line replacements that will take place in 2017. Another amendment provides \$150,000 to distribute water filters to households with lead water service lines and children who are under the age of six.

Other amendments set aside \$500,000 for a future community disparity study, provided \$50,000 for a new sexually-transmitted infection clinic, increased funding for MPS's driver education program by \$50,000 and helped fund a Midnight Basketball program for young men ages 17-25 (a City of Milwaukee partnership with MPS and the Milwaukee Bucks).

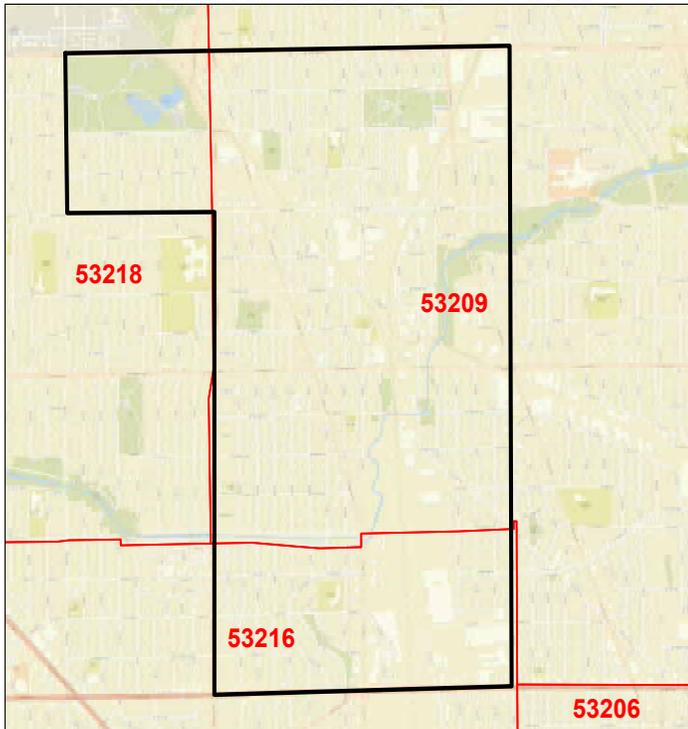
Alderman Hamilton also fought to maintain key investigator positions in the Milwaukee Police Department, and he voted to set aside \$150,000 to support neighborhood block watch efforts. The funds will pay for signage, cameras and additional street lighting in 15 neighborhoods which experience a high incidence of mobile drug-dealing.

The final amended 2017 budget is down nearly \$13 million from the 2016 spending plan, a decrease of 0.8 percent, and the property tax levy will be cut \$9.2 million. The property tax rate will climb only 5 cents to \$10.66 per one thousand dollars of assessed value. ■

Promise Zone Partners are Working for Positive Impacts >

A team of Promise Zone partners are working as agents of positive change in the 1st District and in other areas of the City of Milwaukee. Alderman Hamilton, the chief sponsor of legislation and funding that created the Milwaukee Promise – and the Promise Zone initiative – said the effort provides “a bright flame that can ignite revitalization of neighborhoods and lives” in the district and across Milwaukee.

PROMISE ZONE: GREATER OLD NORTH MILWAUKEE



In the Promise Zone that includes the 1st District (see map), the Garden Homes Neighborhood Association is the partner organization (Garden Homes NA - 414-509-5115). Alderman Hamilton said the Promise Zone partners are “pushing the energy forward” in each of the city’s four “Promise Zones” where, combined, more than 45% of households make less than \$25,000 annually (compared to 36% citywide and 22% statewide). More than 56% of the local population and more than 71% of children in these areas live in poverty.

“The partners are having the opportunity to facilitate significant positive change, while working closely with residents, their Alderperson, city officials, and other key stakeholders,” Alderman Hamilton said.

To date, city resource fairs in the four Promise Zones in Milwaukee have helped to bring hundreds of residents help with key life management issues, including child support, driver’s license recovery, job training, employment, health screenings and expungement counseling. ■

Partially Forgivable Loans for Emergency & Essential Home Repairs >

The **STRONG Homes Loan Program** offers loans of up to \$20,000 to owner occupants of 1-4 family properties throughout the City of Milwaukee on a first come, first served basis. Technical assistance will be provided to homeowners under the program to assist with rehabilitation projects.

Basic Qualifications (Note: additional qualifications apply):

- Property must be owned and occupied by applicant
- Applicant must be current on property taxes
- Applicant must be current on mortgage and utility payments or on an approved payment plan
- Household income qualification (see income guidelines and additional details online)

For more information, please visit the website at milwaukee.gov/STRONGloan, contact the Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation (NIDC) at nidc@milwaukee.gov or call (414)286-5610. ■

Community Rain Garden at Garden Homes >

In October 2016, Alderman Hamilton joined residents of the Historic Garden Homes neighborhood to help install a community rain garden in Garden Homes Park, 2600 W. Atkinson Ave. Helping pitch in were **Cheryl Blue**, executive director of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corp., and **Pastor Rodney Campbell** of Crossing Jordan Ministries.

The new rain garden will help control flooding and add beauty to park. This project was also recognized with a Mayor’s Design Award - kudos to all involved in the planning and work to make this garden a reality!

To watch a video of the event, go to milwaukee.gov/district1 and scroll to “President Hamilton’s Videos”. ■



300+ Strong Movement Rally in its Third Year >



Council President Hamilton organized and was one of the speakers during the 2nd Annual 300+ Strong Movement Rally – hosted by a collective of grassroots and youth serving organizations – last September at Sherman Park. “The rally was packed, and it provided some excellent inspiration and information-sharing,” he said.

The 300+ Strong Movement was launched in 2015 to address the unique challenges and realities Black youths face in Milwaukee. The effort is organized by an active group of Black-

led organizations, including the We Got This Initiative, Running Rebels, Be The Change and Universal Companies. Together they work with some 300-plus youths, mostly young Black males, to help them deal with and rise above these challenges.

President Hamilton said the rally echoed the ongoing work of the Campaign for Black Male Achievement and Cities United, two national efforts focused on strengthening local communities’ capacity to reduce violence and improve life outcomes for Black men and boys. These efforts are led locally by Milwaukee’s Black Male Achievement Advisory Council and the City of Milwaukee’s Office of Violence Prevention. Both have been working with the 300+ Strong Movement.

“Often times these groups and individuals and the work they do go unrecognized,” President Hamilton said. “The 300-plus Movement centers and supports them, and truth be told, many of these groups are overlooked by local funders and lack the capacity to compete with larger, well-connected, and better-resourced organizations with leadership and boards that are not always representative of the communities they serve.”

This year’s 300+ Strong Movement rally will be held at Moody Park, 2200 W. Burleigh on Saturday, August 19th from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. Anyone who is in need of help or who wants to be a part of the effort to help inner city youth are welcome to attend. ■

Schedule Coming Together for Neighborhood Walks >

Alderman Hamilton will be holding regular neighborhood walkthroughs, talking with neighbors, learning about concerns and seeing conditions firsthand. He will be accompanied on his walkthroughs by community partners and/or police officers, inspectors from the Department of Neighborhood Services, officials from the Department of Public Works and other city staffers. “Where there’s a walkthrough taking place on your block or nearby, please join us and tell me what’s on your mind,” he said.

The 2017 schedule to date:

- **Tuesday, June 13** – Villa Rohr Neighborhood
- **Thursday, June 15** – McGovern Park Block Watch Group
- **Thursday June 22nd** - 19th Place Block Watch Group
- **Friday, July 7** – Teutonia Ave. Neighborhood
- **August** – Recess (no walks scheduled)
- **Friday, September 8** - Thurston Woods Neighborhood
- **Friday, September 29** - Rufus King Neighborhood

If you would like Alderman Hamilton to come to your block or neighborhood, **call 286-2228 to schedule a walkthrough.** ■

Attend MPD District 5 Crime Analysis Meetings >

Alderman Hamilton invites residents to attend the monthly Crime Analysis Meetings for MPD District 5 – held the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the MLK Library, 310 W. Locust St. (3rd and Locust). **Upcoming meetings will be:**

- **Wednesday June 7**
- **July – no meeting**
- **Wednesday August 2**
- **Wednesday September 6**

“The best way to take control of your neighborhood is to maintain a relationship with block watches and community crime groups, and each police district has crime analysis meetings open to the public, as well as Community Liaison Officers who help residents in the care of their neighborhood,” Alderman Hamilton said.

“These (Crime Analysis) meetings are very helpful because officers discuss crime trends in the area, things to be looking for and to be aware of, and excellent tips to help keep you and your family safe,” he said.

POLICE DISTRICT 5

- **Community Liaison Officer:** 935-7258
- **Crime Analysis Meetings:** First Wednesday of every month at the **MLK Library - 310 W. Locust St. beginning at 5:30 p.m.** ■

Cheryl Blue Named Head of 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corp. ➤



Cheryl Blue was named executive director of the 30th Street Industrial Corridor Corp. in December 2016. She had been serving as the interim executive director since July 2016.

Ms. Blue was born and raised on Milwaukee’s north side, and is a graduate of North Division High School and the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. She attended graduate school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and has worked in the nonprofit sector in Milwaukee and Philadelphia for many years. Her experience includes direct service, program management, grant writing, community engagement and the administration of several projects that require a great degree of coordination across many partners and sectors.

Since returning to Milwaukee in 2010, she has worked on projects engaging entities such as city government, Milwaukee Public Schools, community organizations, artists, residents, youth, the Milwaukee Police Department, philanthropic foundations and local businesses.

Much of it located in the 1st Aldermanic District, the Corridor is a 25-year-old nonprofit organization that works to restore and maintain the economic vitality of Milwaukee’s industrial corridor, and to stimulate economic growth in the community. The Corridor works to retain businesses and foster expansion in the area, resulting in business development and the creation of jobs with family sustaining wages. ■

CLICK2WORK EMAIL LIST CONNECTS RESIDENTS TO JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Anyone wanting information on job openings, career fairs and vocational training opportunities in Milwaukee can now sign up for regular email and text updates from the city.

Register for the [Click2Work E-Notify list at milwaukee.gov/enotify](http://www.milwaukee.gov/enotify). There, users can sign up for an E-Notify account, and those with an existing account can subscribe to the Click2Work list under “Information Updates”. ■

New Building for Hope Street Ministry, Inc. ➤

Hope Street Ministry, Inc. (HSM) is breaking ground on a new building that will be located at 2510 W. Capitol Dr.

HSM was founded in 1999 and provides transitional housing services at 2522 W. Capitol Dr. (next door to the new building location). HSM provides shelter for individuals and families in recovery, and currently provides housing for 33 participants, including 11 children.

For 18 years, HSM has provided an environment where participants can live with their family unit intact while overcoming the challenges of alcohol and other drug addiction. This has been accomplished through creating a nurturing community within their facility, and providing programming that emphasizes individual self-worth and individual accountability.

Since inception, more than 1,600 men, women, and children have made Hope Street their recovery home. ■



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