

# ALDERMAN CAVALIER JOHNSON



200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-3777 | milwaukee.gov/district2 | Cavalier.Johnson2@milwaukee.gov

WINTER 19

## Dear Neighbors,

I have some truly good news to share with you as we begin 2019 here in the 2nd Aldermanic District. According to the Milwaukee Police Department, homicides and non-fatal shootings have been reduced significantly in the District. Homicides dropped from 13 in 2017 to five in 2018 – a reduction of 62%. Non-fatal shootings during the same period dropped from 42 to 28 – a 33% reduction.

I have consistently asked you and your neighbors to get to know each other better and to come together to increase levels of positive, neighborhood-building activities across our District. You have taken my kind request to heart and I believe your activity is having an impact and is directly related to the overall reduction in crimes we are seeing in the District!

Please keep up this important and good work during 2019 and beyond.

This edition of my newsletter includes articles about activity at City Hall and important neighborhood and city services information. For instance you can read about the 2019 city budget (page 2), a comprehensive legislative package to increase voter participation (page 4), the city's Open Data Portal (page 6), an important city space now named after late city Civil Rights icon Vel Phillips (page 7), a new snow shoveling program to help youths called Project Andrew (page 5), new investments in grocery stores in the District (page 4), and much, much more.

Please contact me whenever you have a question or a concern. My phone number is **414-286-3777** and my email address is **cavalier.johnson2@milwaukee.gov**

Please stay warm and safe!

Sincerely,

**Cavalier Johnson**  
Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### VICE-CHAIR

- Judiciary and Legislation Committee

### MEMBER

- Community and Economic Development Committee
- Public Works Committee

### VIEW MEETINGS ONLINE:

[milwaukee.gov/citychannel](http://milwaukee.gov/citychannel)

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## REPORTING PROBLEM PROPERTIES

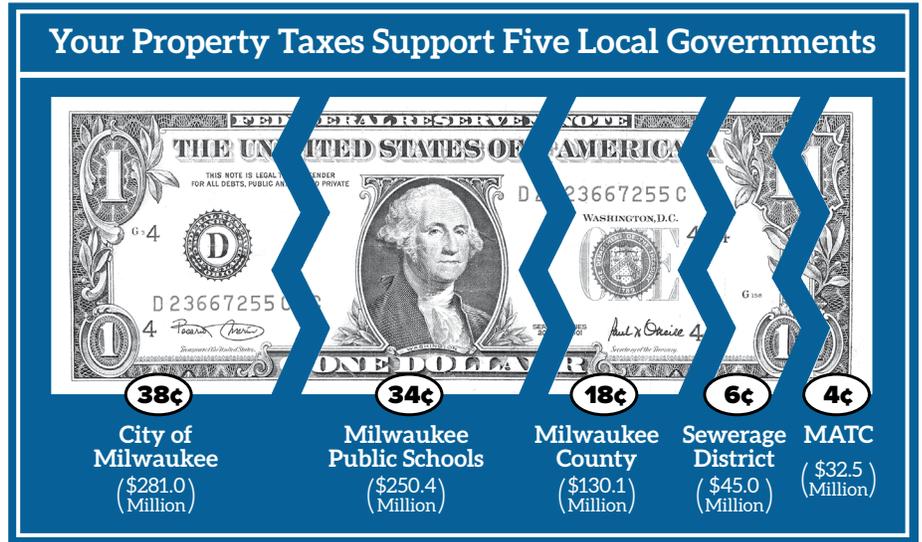
To prevent nuisances in the Milwaukee community, the City encourages concerned neighbors to call the Department of Neighborhood Services at **(414) 286-2268** to report properties with environmental issues including pests, broken windows, litter, overgrown grass or overcrowding. To report nuisance activities, neighbors should call the Milwaukee Police Department's non-emergency number, **(414) 933-4444**. Neighbors can also complete a Hot Spot Form to report a nuisance property. All reports can remain anonymous.

**Council adopts 2019 city budget that addresses pressing public health issues** ▶

After several weeks of deliberation and robust discussion, the Common Council adopted an amended 2019 City of Milwaukee \$1.5 billion budget that aims to tackle the most pressing health-related issues facing the city. The plan will spend roughly \$20 million for lead issues including removing lead paint and replacing lead pipes, along with hiring a special team to address these issues.

Amendments passed in the budget provide the Health Department additional resources along with flexibility to address violence prevention, sexually transmitted diseases and lead contamination. The budget adds four Community Outreach Liaisons and one Health Project Coordinator while creating a \$425,000 special purpose account to address elevated blood level follow-up and lead hazard remediation, family and community health visits and communicable disease prevention.

An innovative approach to public safety will be enacted with an amendment establishing four neighborhood COP houses in areas of high crime which will be operated in partnership with the Milwaukee Police Department and Milwaukee Promise Zones organizations.



The budget also addresses the look, feel and quality of life for neighborhoods. It provides \$25,000 to expand Big Clean MKE from its inaugural four aldermanic district clean-up to a city-wide initiative.

raised thanks to \$2.5 million going to the Concentrated Blight Elimination capital project. And more miles of potholes and pavement issues will be addressed with \$7.2 million for the

**“ It provides \$25,000 to expand Big Clean MKE from its inaugural four aldermanic district clean-up to a city-wide initiative. ”**

City agencies will also be required to collaborate with community groups for better monitoring, security and maintenance of city-owned vacant homes. For those homes slated for demolition, more properties will be

Local Street Reconstruction Program and \$7.4 million for High Impact Paving Projects.

Mayor Tom Barrett signed the budget on November 27th. ■

**HOUSING HELP**  
WEB TOOL

**One click to resources!**  
[milwaukee.gov/HousingHelp](http://milwaukee.gov/HousingHelp)

- homeowners
- home buyers
- investors/non-profits

## Voter participation package passed ➤

A comprehensive, legislative package designed to increase participation in voting was approved by the Common Council on September 25, 2018. Alderman Cavalier Johnson was the lead sponsor of this package. “This approach puts in place a system that allows for opting out of voter registration rather than the current barriers of opting in,” he said.

The package’s first measure directs Milwaukee’s Department of Administration – Intergovernmental Relations Division to seek introduction and passage of State legislation to provide for universal voter registration and accept a mobile-compatible electronic voter identification system, so voters can present their mobile device instead of a physical identification card. Further, it urges voting pre-registration be provided for 16-and 17-year-olds;

The second measure requires certain city employees who are points of contact with the public to inquire about residents’ voter registration status and to provide information regarding registration. The second measure urges the Mayor to include voter registration information in the Mayor’s Earn and Learn Program. It also directs the Community Development Block Grant Office to require all

community-based organizations to make voter registration information available to their customers.



The third measure urges Milwaukee Public Schools to pre-register all students 18 years of age and older to vote while the students are still in school and prior to graduation.

“The most important office in this country is that of citizen, and we need people to be engaged, which is why voting is so crucial,” Alderman Johnson said. ■

## Grocery stores bolster investments in 2nd District ➤

During 2018 the 2nd District saw major investments take shape at the ALDI store at 6700 W. Capitol Dr., and at the Pick ‘n Save at Midtown Center.



Alderman Johnson said the newly renovated ALDI store offers a tremendous boost for the neighborhood. “ALDI has made a major investment in and a significant commitment to the future of this store and to this neighborhood, and I

am very grateful for that,” he said.

The 6700 W. Capitol Dr. store is part of the \$1.9 billion investment by ALDI to remodel and expand more than 1,300 stores nationwide by the end of 2020. Locally, ALDI is investing more than \$37 million to update 23 stores in Milwaukee and the surrounding metropolitan area by the end of 2019.

With more than \$2 million in upgrades, the Midtown Pick ‘n Save is now a marquee store for the grocery chain in the city. “At a time when other nearby grocers are shuttering services, Pick ‘n Save has redoubled efforts to make sure that Capitol Heights and the surrounding neighborhoods do not become a food desert as too many neighborhoods in our community are,” the alderman said.

“This investment is also important because Pick ‘n Save is an anchor store at Midtown that helps to buoy the center as a regional area for commerce. A strong and thriving Pick ‘n Save is key to a strong Midtown which in turn is important for economic development in my district and all of the northwest side of the city,” he said. ■

## Project Return Milwaukee >

*Project RETURN (Returning Ex-offenders To Urban Realities and Neighborhoods), is an interfaith ministry that exists to help men and women who have experienced incarceration make a positive and permanent return to community, family, and friends.*

### Programs offered by Project RETURN

#### **Re-Entry Employment Program (REEP)**

This program works with men and women still incarcerated in one of the minimum security prisons in Milwaukee. Through this program, the individuals are able to job search at the Project RETURN office, thus allowing more opportunities in a still-supervised setting. The inmates are allowed to contact employers via telephone or fax, under the supervision of Project RETURN staff. LaVealea Ball-Johnson and Andre Brown, along with the rest of the Project RETURN staff, work with the participants in this program.

#### **Fatherhood Initiative**

Project RETURN facilitates employment/fatherhood groups. Through these groups, participants learn basic "soft skills" of employment, while also focusing on values, goals, and other issues affecting the individual's job search. Additionally, participants engage in a fatherhood curriculum. The vast majority of the individuals participating are, or will soon be,

fathers. This curriculum is designed to help the individual become more active in their child's life and, as a result, stay out of trouble.

#### **Jobs Task Force**

The Jobs Task Force is held every Tuesday and Thursday. Through this program, we enroll new clients for Project RETURN and our services. Clients work one-on-one with a case manager to assess and help in the best way possible.

In 2010, Project RETURN saw in excess of 1,500 new clients walk through the door of Project RETURN, many walk-in clients accessing the Jobs Task Force program alone. Through this program, participants sign up to be members of Project RETURN. They access job leads and obtain help with resumes and applications. They utilize our computer lab, obtain assistance with transportation and clothing needs, and when available, get help with personal needs such as appliances and furniture, hygiene products and other needs. All the case managers and the executive

director assist the men and women involved in this program.

#### **Changes Support Groups**

Project RETURN offers three groups to individuals not referred by the DOC (Department of Corrections) to address AODA (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse) issues in their life. Two of these groups are men's groups (Tuesday and Friday night, both facilitated by Clem Richardson), and the other is a women's group (Wednesday, facilitated by Lavealea Ball-Johnson). These groups try to assist the participants with drug addictions, anger management, and other issues the individual may encounter.

#### **Alumni Group**

The Alumni Group provides men and women who have worked with Project RETURN in the past, become more active in projects specifically interesting to them as a group. This group meets every Wednesday evening from 5-6PM.

**To contact Project Return please call 414-374-8029. ■**



During a news conference at City Hall last fall, the Human Rights Campaign launched its 2018 municipal equality index, highlighting historic progress being made across 506 cities including Milwaukee in matters of inclusiveness and equity. Citing the successful conversion therapy ban legislation authored by Alderman Johnson, the City of Milwaukee was recognized by the national leadership of the Human Rights Campaign with an equality score of 100 percent.

## Project Andrew Youth Snow Shoveling Program ➤

The Milwaukee Department of Public Works and Milwaukee Community Service Corps (MCSC) will employ 15 Milwaukee youths with paid snow shoveling assignments during the 2018-2019 winter season as part of Project Andrew – named in honor of late Milwaukee crossing guard Andrew Tyler.



Milwaukee residents who are between 15-20 years of age are able to apply. The youths will assist Milwaukee residents in their neighborhood who have been verified by DPW as having disabilities

or other impediments that prevent them from shoveling their own sidewalk.

Shovelers will be assigned to such properties within approximately a five-block radius of their home. MCSC will take applications, assign youth participants to hardship properties, supervise their work, and ensure the youths are safe while working. The salary is \$2.75 per sidewalk segment, or approximately \$11.00 an hour.

“Andrew Tyler (who passed away late in 2017 from injuries he received in a hit-and-run incident while he was helping



students cross near Kluge School) displayed his commitment to service and safety every day, and it is fitting to remember him with this program to serve residents who truly need help,” Alderman Johnson said.

“This is a great opportunity for young Milwaukeeans youth to help the community, be physically active and earn a fair wage. I encourage all young people to apply,” he said.

**Send Applications to: Milwaukee Community Service Corps 1441 N. 7th St., Milwaukee, WI 53203. Or contact Mike Consiglio at 414-372-9040. Email: mconsiglio@mcscwi.org. ■**



## Connect with Alderman Johnson at Second Cup ➤

Alderman Johnson’s ‘Second Cup’ is a great way to connect with him without having to travel to City Hall or attend a meeting. He meets informally with residents on the second Friday of every month from 12:30–1:30 p.m. at the Midtown Center Starbucks (5610 W. Capitol Dr.).

“I always look forward to meeting residents at Second Cup, and I encourage everyone to connect with me at Starbucks in a relaxed setting where we can discuss city services and other important issues,” he said. ■



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- Job Training
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- Shelter
- Legal Help
- Mental Health Help
- Healthcare
- Education
- ... and more!**

## Education savings account legislation was on point ➤

Although Assembly Bill 830 did not have enough votes to be approved by the state Legislature during 2018, the program it would have created is “an excellent and much-needed one for Milwaukee,” Alderman Johnson said.

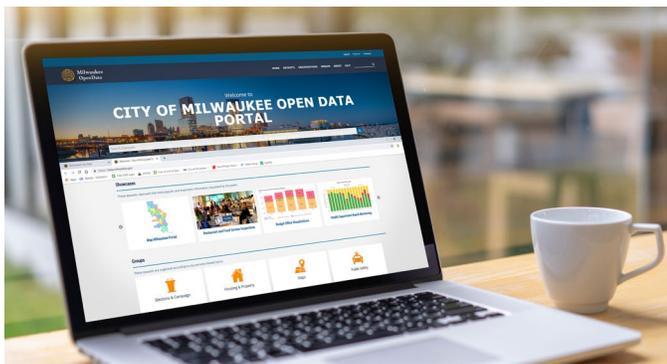
The bill sought to create an educational savings account program for gifted and talented pupils. The measure would require the Department of Public Instruction to award \$1,000 scholarships to certain gifted and talented pupils and to credit the scholarships to individual accounts established and maintained by DPI.

Under the bill, a pupil would be eligible for a gifted and talented scholarship if the pupil satisfies the following criteria: 1. The pupil is enrolled in a public school, including an independent

charter school, or a private school participating in a parental choice program or the Special Needs Scholarship Program; 2. The pupil is identified as a gifted and talented pupil because the pupil demonstrates evidence of high performance capability in an intellectual, creative, artistic, leadership, or other specific academic area or because the pupil scored in the top 5 percent on a pupil assessment required to be administered under state law; 3. The pupil satisfies the income eligibility criteria under federal law for a free or reduced-price lunch.

“In Milwaukee there are thousands of gifted and talented students who would benefit by such a program, and I will be urging our state representatives to keep working to get the support that’s needed to get the program approved by the Legislature,” Alderman Johnson said. ■

## Heard about the city’s Open Data Portal? ➤



Working collaboratively with various city departments, the Information Technology Management Division (ITMD) has created a dynamic new Open Data Portal that will serve as a tremendous resource to the public. The goal of this ongoing project is to engage the public while inspiring positive changes in our communities and lives. The Open Data Portal currently has more than 68 data-sets available to search, filter and download. Categories of data available include: Public Safety, Housing and Property, City Service and Elections and Campaign Data.

Additionally, the portal has maps, graphs and API (Application Programming Interface) keys. The city is happy to make this data available to the public while working toward making Milwaukee a great place to live, work and play.

**Explore the new Open Data Portal to find data that is important to you at [milwaukee.gov/opendata](http://milwaukee.gov/opendata) ■**

## Conversion therapy banned by Common Council ➤

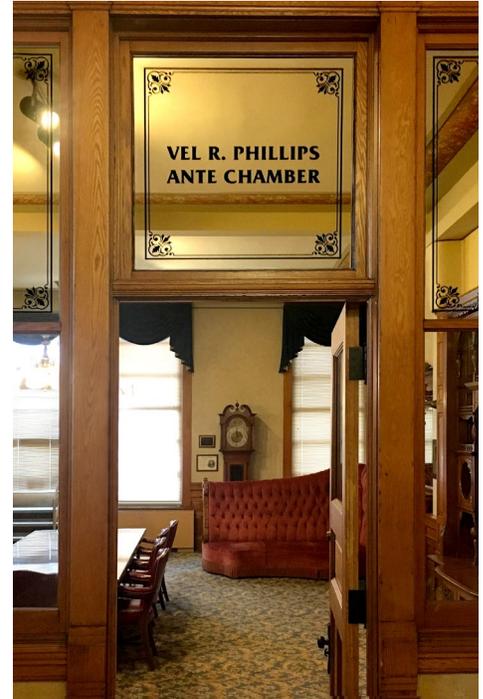
Last year the Common Council approved legislation sponsored by Alderman Johnson banning conversion therapy, the practice of attempting to change a person’s sexual orientation.

Alderman Johnson said the ordinance applies only to minors and does not affect the faith-based community. He noted the legislation prohibits fee-based conversion therapy services and said if someone would like to seek free counseling from their faith leader it remains possible under the legislation. The legislation also does not prohibit churches from preaching, ministering or otherwise speaking about the issue.

Outlined by the American Psychological Association’s 2009 report, detrimental lifelong effects of conversion therapy include depression, suicidality, and substance abuse.

“As an elected official, it is my duty to be as vigilant as possible in preventing violence,” Alderman Johnson said. “Conversion therapy often involves emotionally damaging or violent methods to victims that are most vulnerable, our children.”

The resolution (Council file #171760) imposes a \$500 to \$1,000 fine for each violation, with each day practicing conversion therapy being considered a separate violation. Since Milwaukee became the first city in Wisconsin to outlaw conversion therapy practices for anyone under 18, Cudahy, Madison and Eau Claire have enacted their own similar measures ■



In September Alderman Johnson was part of a special ceremony to mark the naming of the third floor Council Chamber ante chamber space at City Hall in honor of Vel R. Phillips. Earlier in 2018 the Council unanimously approved legislation – authored by Alderman Johnson and co-sponsored by Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs – approving the naming in Ms. Phillips’ honor. “Vel Phillips made history by fighting for her constituents and the community in ways that improved the quality of life for all Milwaukeeans,” he said. “It was an honor to designate a space in her name just feet away from where she served as a Council member with such distinction, spirit and skill, and it’s only fitting.” The ornately decorated Vel R. Phillips Ante Chamber hosts meetings, receptions, news conferences and other events.

## Measure seeks better access for feminine hygiene products at schools ➤

Alderman Johnson recently voted in favor of successful Common Council legislation (Council file #170198) expressing the City of Milwaukee’s support for the University of Wisconsin Associated Students of Madison’s pilot program to place free menstrual products in University of Wisconsin-Madison campus buildings.

The Council measure urges leadership at Milwaukee Public Schools and the State of Wisconsin to realize the importance of access to menstrual products for women and girls in the hopes that they adopt

programs to make sure that these products are made available for free to women and girls in schools here.

“Providing free menstrual products in bathrooms in elementary, middle and high schools in Milwaukee and beyond would address poverty-driven access issues and also send a body-positive message that women and girls here and throughout Wisconsin deserve dignity,” Alderman Johnson said. Because of Alderman Johnson’s advocacy, feminine hygiene products are now available in the three City Hall complex buildings. ■

## What to do with Electronics Items? ➤



Wisconsin state law bans TVs, computers, and many other electronics items from landfills, and it applies not just to businesses, but to everybody. The Department of Public Works Self Help Centers accept for recycling (at no charge) all of the items that fall under the law.

To learn more about recycling your electronics items, please call the city’s United Call Center (286-CITY) at 286-2489, or go to the DPW city webpage here: [milwaukee.gov/electronics](http://milwaukee.gov/electronics) ■

DISTRICT 2

# ALDERMAN CAVALIER JOHNSON



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WINTER 19



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Alderman Johnson (at right) joined Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton (far left) for former Governor Walker's signing of the Leading on Lead Act (Senate Bill 48) recently at the Mother Kathryn Daniels Center. The Leading on Lead Act creates financial assistance programs by which public water utilities may provide grants or loans to property owners to assist in the replacement of lead-containing water service lines. The bill allows local governments to address this issue on a tailored, community-by-community basis.

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