

6th

DISTRICT

ALDERWOMAN MILELE A. COGGS

THE COGGS CONNECTION



200 E. Wells St. | Milwaukee, WI 53202 | 286-2994 | www.milwaukee.gov/district6 | mcoggs@milwaukee.gov

AUTUMN 19



Vel R. Phillips Street Renaming

A special street renaming ceremony took place during Bronzeville Week in August 2018 at N. 4th St. and W. North Ave. for the renaming of N. 4th St. to N. Vel R. Phillips Ave.

"The street's renaming will serve as a memorial to Vel R. Phillips' advocacy for social justice, fair housing and civil rights. I am proud to have sponsored legislation that pays tribute to such an iconic leader."

- ALDERWOMAN MILELE A. COGGS

Dear Neighbors,

Hope all is well. As we usher in a new year I hope the content of this newsletter helps to inform you on a few of the things that I have been working on recently to help improve the quality of life for us all.

Inside this edition of The Coggs Connection you will find tributes to some of Milwaukee's most historical figures, information about new developments in the district, legislation I have fought for, useful resources and opportunities along with a spotlight on a few young people from the district doing great things.

Infused throughout each story in this edition is the reality that all service must be focused on the people and none of the items mentioned would have been possible without the collaborative efforts of so many stakeholders, so to each of them and you I say thank you.

Peace, Love, and Justice,

Milele A. Coggs
Alderwoman, 6th District



COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Finance and Personnel Committee
- Milwaukee Public Library Services & Programs Committee

VICE CHAIR

- Steering and Rules Committee
- Licenses Committee

MEMBER

- Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee
- Deferred Compensation Plan Board
- Joint Committee on Streetcar Implementation
- Library Board
- Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation Board
- Wisconsin Center District Board

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and @MKE_TV for City of Milwaukee
Common Council and City Clerk
news, info and updates.

Omnibus Budget Amendment Tackles Various City Needs

During the 2020 budget deliberations, the Finance and Personnel Committee considered more than 90 amendments to the proposed city budget. Among the amendments approved was amendment 42L, also known as the omnibus amendment, brought forward by Alderwoman Coggs with the intent of tackling several key issues throughout the city.

“This amendment was a true collaboration amongst Council members with the intent of doing what is best for city residents. It helps us take one step closer to becoming the Milwaukee we all know is possible. I appreciate the effort of my colleagues and want to thank them for contributing to this amendment,” said Alderwoman Coggs.

The omnibus amendment allocates funding to support initiatives including; adding funding to the Health Department for a Birthing Moms Pilot Project; a trauma informed care marketing campaign; funding for additional Operations Driver Workers; position authority and funding for a Healthy Food Access Coordinator; additional support for Earn and Learn; increased funding for litter cans; creation of a Reckless Driving Task Force recommendations special fund account; and funding for an Emergency Housing Program.

The amendment was co-sponsored by Council President Hamilton, Alderwoman Lewis, Alderman Stamper, Alderman Perez, Alderman Rainey, Alderman Kovac, Alderman Bauman and Alderman Johnson. 

Council Approves Formation of Citizen Committee to Curb Displacement

The Common Council has unanimously approved legislation that will create a 12-member Citizen Anti-Displacement Advisory Committee to analyze displacement, gentrification, and development. Alderwoman Coggs was the primary sponsor of the legislation, meant to help lessen the negative consequences of major developments taking place in the city.

“The Citizen Anti-Displacement Advisory Committee will strategize and help formulate recommendations for policies that grow downtown developments while providing a safeguard against displacement for residents. This committee will help to connect with citizens and hear their opinions on how we can avoid displacement and gentrification,” Alderwoman Coggs said.

The Citizen Anti-Displacement Advisory Committee will be composed of three Common Council members and nine citizen members. The Common Council also recently approved creation of legislation that would create an anti-displacement tax fund program, which aims to prevent longtime city residents from becoming effected by displacement due to the trends of development that are taking place in downtown Milwaukee.

“This is a great opportunity for 6th District residents to make their voices heard on how our city can work together to ensure for as much as we can that residents are able to remain in the neighborhoods they helped shape,” the alderwoman said.

For information on other anti-displacement efforts visit milwaukee.gov/district6. 



Inspired by the work of ReDonna Rodgers, Alderwoman Coggs sponsored legislation to establish the Growing Entrepreneurs in Milwaukee (GEM) initiative as an official City program for youth under the age of 18 to learn about City licensing regulations to advance and achieve their entrepreneurial goals.

The GEM initiative will consist of online educational “modules,” an introduction to the business permitting process, and real-world educational experiences to teach the principles of entrepreneurship.

“We know that early exposure to and interaction with our business processes is crucial to an entrepreneur’s success,” said Ald. Coggs. “Helping our young people recognize opportunity, and giving them the tools to capitalize on these opportunities, empowers them to take ownership of their future and to grow professionally and personally.”

The GEM initiative will work in partnership with other youth entrepreneur programs. It is authorized to accept up to \$10,000 in contributions to support its mission and goals.

Visit milwaukee.gov/GEM or call (414) 286-2238 for more information. 

53206 Initiative

In June, The Common Council approved a resolution to create a 53206 task force, with the goal of bringing positive and comprehensive change for residents within the 53206 ZIP code.

Common Council File #181911 was sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs and will form a team of experts and 53206 residents to assess media and academic reports that single out the 53206 ZIP code area in a negative light, identify barriers to economic, health and social equity resources for residents in 53206, and make recommendations for targeting City funding, programming, policies and legislation. The resolution is co-sponsored by Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, and Council President Ashanti Hamilton and approved by the full Council.

“Media and academic reports have repeatedly singled out 53206 as the worst place in America for African-Americans,” said Ald. Coggs. “As one of the representatives for residents in the area, I understand that concentrated resources are needed to bring lasting and positive change. This task force will work toward lowering rates of poverty and unemployment in 53206, as well as improving access to health care, education and transportation.” Jobs and resource fairs and other community events will continue to be targeted for residents of 53206.

The task force will be composed of 11 members, including residents of the 53206 ZIP code and experts in workforce development, public education, academic research and a variety of other areas. ▀



Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs and Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II invited community members to apply for the Alert Neighbor Program (ANP) in June.

The Alert Neighbor Program is a pilot initiative that assists neighborhood block clubs with identifying and implementing strategies to reduce safety concerns, such as reporting criminal activity and planning neighborhood improvement projects. Additionally, the ANP will provide funding for physical improvements in neighborhoods that range from crime watch signs and porch lighting, to security camera installation.

Alderwoman Coggs said, “This program increases the participation in everyday neighborhood communication, safety, and engagement by community members, which is a positive step toward improving blocks across Milwaukee.” ▀

City Departments to Develop and Implement a Plan for the Improvement of W. Hopkins Street

Alderwoman Coggs along with Alderman Rainey sponsored legislation that directs city departments to develop and implement a plan for the improvement of a portion of W. Hopkins St. in the 6th and 7th Districts. Under the proposal, the Department of City Development, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Neighborhood Services will be the main catalysts in helping improve W. Hopkins St.

The legislation—Council File #190587—was authored by Alderwoman Coggs and pertains to properties along W. Hopkins St. between N. 15th and N. 27th Streets that have fallen in to disrepair, with vacant land and buildings, dilapidated structures, and unsafe infrastructure.

Alderwoman Coggs said, “I truly believe this legislation can help with the improvement of the W. Hopkins Street area. The reconstruction of infrastructure and new business developments in this area will serve as a positive incentive for residents of the area and for the community as a whole.”

The plan for Hopkins St. looks to examine the strengths and weaknesses of area real estate, recommendations for the use of City-owned properties, identification of resident and commercial needs, and a plan for infrastructure improvement and code enforcement in the area. Neighbors in the area will be asked for their input.

For a full list of all legislation sponsored by Alderwoman Coggs visit milwaukee.gov/district6. ▀

ABHM Development Completion

America's Black Holocaust Museum (ABHM) is set to be reopened soon. It was founded in 1988 by the late Dr. James Cameron, a noted civil rights activist, author, and public speaker. Currently, the museum is a program of Dr. Cameron's Legacy Foundation, a charitable organization.

The museum is located at 401 W. North Ave. as part of The Griot development in Milwaukee's Bronzeville district. It serves to build public awareness of the history of slavery in America while promoting racial repair, reconciliation, and healing. The museum currently offers virtual tours online which provide six galleries telling the story of the Black holocaust from life in Africa to present-day USA.

In response to the museum, Alderwoman Cogs stated, "It is wonderful to have rebuilt this museum and have it located where it belongs in the area of Milwaukee centered on Black culture. I invite all to attend after the museum's opening to learn about the history of African-American people and all the obstacles overcome so far."

Dr. Robert "Bert" Davis was welcomed as the new President and CEO of ABHM and started the new role in September. He brings an extensive background in nonprofit museum management, education, and fundraising.

You can learn more by visiting www.ABHMuseum.org. ▀



5 POINTS ART GALLERY & STUDIOS



VEDALE'S ART STUDIO

Alderwoman Cogs and Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II were the primary sponsors of legislation creating a one-of-a-kind pilot program to turn dilapidated foreclosed homes into beautiful hubs for artwork and resources. The program is focused on transforming city-owned foreclosed homes.

"This is a new approach to creating a critical mass of artistic talent, creativity, entrepreneurship and resources in Milwaukee neighborhoods that truly need a boost of positive energy," Alderwoman Cogs said.

ARCH is a matching grant program whereby the city puts up \$25,000 and the artist or interested person purchasing a home must match that amount and work to rehab the home - transforming it into a livable and working art studio or resource hub.

ARCH applications are available at milwaukee.gov/district6 ▀

Cream City Hostel Opens in Riverwest



Cream City Hostel opened its doors this summer to travelers and guests alike wanting to experience an evening in Milwaukee's Riverwest neighborhood. The building at 500 E. Center St. includes includes three-stories and accommodations for up to 52 guests at the former Holton Street State Bank.

This budget-friendly hotel alternative is located within walking distance of restaurants and shops, and offers visitors a rec room, large backyard, free Wi-Fi, a fully equipped kitchen open to all guests,

newly renovated bathrooms and locker space. In addition, Hometown Bikes resides on the first floor of the hostel and offers bike, helmet and lock rentals for easy traveling.

Alderwoman Cogs was thrilled to welcome Cream City Hostel to the 6th District. "This project is a great addition to Riverwest. Cream City Hostel will offer travelers of all kinds the chance to experience life in a Milwaukee neighborhood, and put our community's best foot forward," she said. ▀

New Home Ownership Resources For Bronzeville

The City of Milwaukee has launched two new programs for individuals interested in buying a home in the Bronzeville neighborhood (bounded by North Palmer Street, I-43, Garfield Avenue and West Burleigh Street.)

The Bronzeville Homebuyer Assistance (HBA) Program provides aid to qualified individuals who are buying a City-owned home for homeownership in the Bronzeville District. The program provides a forgivable loan of up to \$25,000 to help with renovation needs for the property, as well as technical assistance to help develop a scope of work for the property, obtain bids, and select a contractor.

In addition, the Bronzeville Resident Down Payment Grant Program provides down payment assistance to qualified current Bronzeville residents who are buying a home for homeownership in the Bronzeville District. The program is not limited to the purchase of City-owned properties and provides a forgivable grant of up to \$5,000 to help with down payment costs associated with purchasing a home.

For more information on the programs and program applications call (414) 286-5608 or visit www.milwaukee.gov/Bronzeville/Real-Estate.



STOP ILLEGAL DUMPING by reporting WHO, WHAT, WHERE and WHEN. If your tip leads to a citation, you may be eligible for a reward of up to **\$1,000**.



Be A Leader in Your Community: Be an Election Worker

The City of Milwaukee Election Commission needs you!

We are looking for dependable people residing in Milwaukee County to assist as election workers at voting sites throughout the City in 2020.

Election work is non-partisan and provides a great way to participate in the democratic process. You can apply to work as an Election Inspector (must be a Milwaukee County resident). These positions are paid: \$130/day. You must attend (paid) training.

Fluent bilingual (English/ Spanish or English/Hmong) individuals are especially encouraged to apply.

For applications and more information, visit www.milwaukee.gov/election or contact us at electionworker@milwaukee.gov.

UPCOMING ELECTIONS (2020)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH

Spring Primary

TUESDAY, APRIL 7TH

Spring Election

Presidential Primary

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11TH

Fall Primary

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

Fall General Election

Adopt - A - Block

The Adopt-A-Block initiative will work with 100 churches and organizations as a way of fighting the violence which has plagued Milwaukee streets. Currently, 70 churches are in support of the initiative and are working through faith to do their part in improving neighborhoods and lifting up residents. Each church is responsible for a single block and for conducting outreach and connecting those residents to resources they need. These churches will also conduct monthly clean-ups and continue to engage with the community to preserve positivity and non-violence throughout the neighborhood.

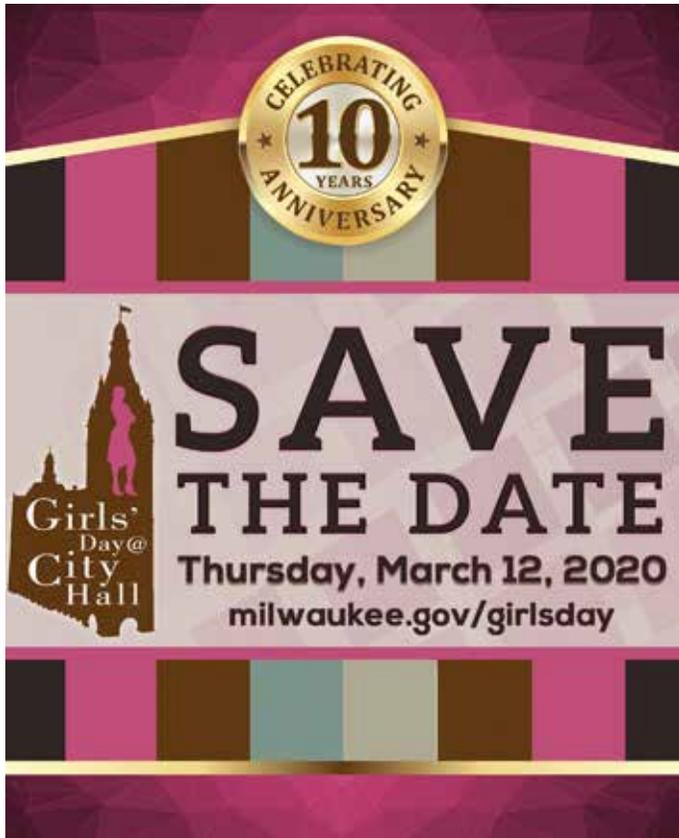
In response to Adopt-A-Block, Alderwoman Cogs stated, "I ask that all support this initiative and continue to make strides toward improving our neighborhoods. To those standing by this initiative and the churches and organizations willing to take on this responsibility, I say thank you. We can assure residents that through these combined efforts, the streets of Milwaukee will be made better for all." ▀



HOUSING HELP WEB TOOL

- homeowners
- home buyers
- investors/non-profits

One click to resources!



First Ever Girls' Day @ City Hall Scholarship Award

Alicia Marie Webb – then a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran High School – was awarded a \$600 scholarship for her participation in and service to the City of Milwaukee in conjunction with Girls' Day @ City Hall in March by Alderwoman Coggs.

Ms. Webb was a participant in Girl's Day @ City Hall, Girl's Shadow Day @ City Hall, held a Summer Internship at City Hall and now attends Northwestern University majoring in Legal and African-American Studies. ▀



VEL R. PHILLIPS

TRAILBLAZER AWARD

During the Girls' Day @ City Hall event earlier this year, **Bria Smith** received the Vel R. Phillips Trailblazer Award for her service to the community. The award recognizes selfless service and work to improve the quality of life for residents in Milwaukee.

Ms. Smith is a graduate of Franklin High School and is current freshman at Emerson College. She was named Miss Juneteenth in June 2017 and is planning on studying journalism, mass communication, and broadcast in college.

Last year she spoke during the national March for Our Lives event in Washington, D.C., addressing tens of thousands about the scourge of gun violence. She also took part in political campaign events across the U.S. with fellow young anti-gun violence activists in the run-up to the fall 2018 mid-term elections.

“Through her leadership Bria has exemplified the spirit of Vel Phillips by helping raise awareness on key issues affecting Milwaukee and our nation, including gun violence, and she has especially captured the attention of young people.” Alderwoman Coggs said.

To nominate someone for the 2020 Vel R. Phillips Trailblazer award please visit milwaukee.gov/VelRPhillipsTrailblazerAward. ▀



6th District Youth Council Representative



Jadah Webb is a new member of the Youth Council, representing the 6th District. A junior at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Jadah is passionate about the arts and is involved in Color Guard, Woodwind Ensemble, Saxophone Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Marching Band.

Jadah also serves her community by volunteering at local events with the Milwaukee NAACP Youth Council and being an advocate for and member of the FACT Movement, Wisconsin's youth tobacco prevention program. 

6th District Earn & Learn Summer Intern



Christina Allen graduated from Alliance High School and is currently a sophomore at MATC studying to be a graphic designer.

The internship provides real world experience in the day-to-day workings of an aldermanic office, including constituent services, special events, legislative initiatives, research and writing, and meetings of the Common Council and its standing committees.

Find more info at milwaukee.gov/earnlearn 

Nominate a Difference Maker



Do you know someone in your neighborhood making a difference? To find out how to nominate them to receive a Dr. James G. White 6th District Difference Makers Award visit milwaukee.gov/differencemakers. 



DNC 2020

If you are considering using Airbnb to rent out your residence – please call the **Department of Neighborhood Services** for information about the city's related regulations at [414-286-2268](tel:414-286-2268).

Visit our **Frequently Asked Questions:** milwaukee2020.com/venue-faq.

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Find local trainings, jobs and supports for your career path.

download the app or connect with Veronica



to stay up to date on opportunities on the @dcmke network

text @dcmke at **39197**

to communicate with a virtual helper and register with trusted career mentors

Blueprint for Peace



Residents who are wondering what they can do to help reduce violence can read and learn more about the Office of Violence Prevention's **Blueprint for Peace** at city.milwaukee.gov/414Life.

For **FREE** help for children who have witnessed violence and/or violent crimes please contact **Trauma Response** at [\(414\) 257-7621](tel:414-257-7621).



Get Connected. Get Answers.

Simply call 211 to get help with life.

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United Way of Greater Milwaukee & Milwaukee County

6th

DISTRICT

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AUTUMN 19

Upcoming Events

SAT NOVEMBER 23 | 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Housing Resource Fair

NORTH DIVISION HIGH SCHOOL | 1011 W. CENTER STREET

TUES JANUARY 21 | 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
6th District Town Hall Meeting

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PUBLIC LIBRARY | 310 W. LOCUST STREET

SAT JANUARY 25 | 10:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
MKE Business Now Entrepreneurship Summit

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 3275 N. 3RD STREET

WED FEBRUARY 12 | 5:30 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
Black History Month Read-In

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PUBLIC LIBRARY | 310 W. LOCUST STREET

THUR MARCH 12 | 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Girls Day @ City Hall

CITY HALL ROTUNDA | 200 E. WELLS STREET



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Alderwoman, 6th District
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Social Responsibility

Recently, legislation introduced by **Alderwoman Coggs** that focuses on hiring socially-responsible contractors was passed by the Common Council. The measure required the city purchasing director to create a bid scoring system that awards additional points to contractors who make efforts to eliminate or significantly reduce barriers to unemployment.

The legislation (Council file#170638) has language requiring the company to fulfill at least three actions and/or programs. Among the examples listed are – hiring persons with a felony conviction; assisting current or prospective employees in earning high school diplomas; providing hours of paid sick leave; and underwriting or facilitating services for employees such as obtaining a valid driver’s license, legal aid services, child care and family-related dependent care, and emergency housing.



“To create improved conditions in Milwaukee we will need an ‘all hands on deck approach’ that asks everyone to do a little extra in their daily work,” said Alderwoman Coggs. “This legislation puts forth incentives to city-hired contractors for them to be a part of a push in doing things differently to help put people back to work. I believe these extra efforts can help improve conditions and turn lives around for the better.”

Co-sponsors of the file include Alderman **Russell W. Stamper, II**, Alderman **Khalif J. Rainey**, Alderwoman **Chantia Lewis**, Alderman **José G. Pérez**, Alderman **Robert J. Bauman**, Alderman **Ashanti Hamilton** and Alderman Cavalier “Chevy” Johnson. ▀



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