



**Ashanti Hamilton**  
*City of Milwaukee Common Council*

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## **Familiar name of new Employ Milwaukee leader is great news for our future**

**Statement of Common Council President Ashanti Hamilton  
July 20, 2018**

The keys to Milwaukee's top workforce agency could not have been entrusted to an individual more qualified than Willie Wade, a close ally and friend, and a very familiar name to anyone following city and community issues during the past 15 years.

Willie Wade, a member of the Common Council from April 1, 2003 to February 1, 2016, was named President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee yesterday (Thursday, July 19) by Mayor Barrett. For more than two years Willie was Employ Milwaukee's Chief Marketing Officer and served under Earl Buford, who left recently for a workforce executive position in Pittsburgh.

Employ Milwaukee has a tremendous impact on helping job seekers across the city as it is the largest of 11 workforce development boards in the state, serving Workforce Development Area (WDA) #2, covering Milwaukee County.

During our years of service on the Council together, I appreciated Willie's championing of economic opportunity for all and his work to make connections with private and community workforce partners. He served as a board member for 11 years at Employ Milwaukee before joining the agency as a top officer, and his experience on numerous boards and committees as a member of the Council (more than a dozen in total) prepared him well to excel and push Employ Milwaukee forward to greater success.

Willie Wade knows every angle of both the workforce challenges and opportunities in Milwaukee, and he appreciates the importance of creating real economic opportunity – and creating greater pathways to employment for more city residents – better than most.

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Willie has demonstrated the ability to collaborate with stakeholders to strengthen and streamline the workforce system. Working closely with companies, job seekers, community- and faith-based organizations, education sector partners, developers, commerce and economic development organizations, Willie has shown himself to be a champion of workforce innovation and job creation across the Milwaukee area.

In overseeing the Coordinating Council, a 25-member group of training and social service providers, Willie has ensured workforce efficiency and access to workforce resources, and he recently launched the innovative Mobile Workforce Connections initiative, which reaches individuals in the communities in which they live.

Very simply, the appointment of Willie Wade as President and CEO of Employ Milwaukee is great news for our future and a tremendous opportunity for my former colleague and friend.

Congratulations Willie!

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