

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **CHAIR**

• Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development

### **MEMBER**

• Steering and Rules  
• Community and Economic Development



**KHALIF J. RAINEY**  
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

# **\$800,000 added to 2019 city budget for Office of African American Affairs**

## **Statement of Alderman Khalif J. Rainey November 1, 2018**

I want to commend Mayor Barrett for including \$800,000 in the proposed 2019 city budget to begin renovations that will enable the city Office of African American Affairs to get closer to serving the community at its future location at 4830 W. Fond du Lac Ave.

This funding is a stepping stone to creating vital satellite space in the community where people can go to gain access to key resources for the African American community. I sponsored the successful legislation to create the OAAA (in late 2016) and have been working to bring it to fruition for nearly two years, and I'm pleased that the building renovations could well be started in earnest next year.

The goal is for the OAAA to function as a one-stop shop for multiple services, and to achieve this goal, city positions responsible for promoting racial equity and inclusion will function on a part-time or full-time basis at the OAAA facility. In addition, another goal of the OAAA is promoting equal opportunities for African American residents in areas including business ownership, job creation, job training, home ownership, health care and education.

It's time to do everything we can as a city to make sure all of our citizens have a chance to live better and richer lives, and that all of our children can reach their full potential.

I believe the new OAAA can play a vital role in bringing us closer to making those goals attainable.

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