



February 26, 2019

Ald. Cavalier Johnson
(414) 286-3777

Council approves legislation to increase time for paying parking citations

The Common Council today approved an ordinance that will increase the time for paying parking citations without a penalty.

Sponsored by **Alderman Cavalier Johnson**, Common Council File #181630 is legislation that extends the grace period for paying a parking citation from the current 10 days to 14 days. Extending the grace period is not expected to have a material effect on parking citation collections, and may actually reduce the number of unpaid citations submitted to a collection agency for non-payment. Co-sponsored by **Aldermwoman Milele A. Coggs, Aldermwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderman José G. Pérez, Aldermwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Ashanti Hamilton, Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II, and Alderman Robert J. Bauman**, the ordinance was approved unanimously by the full Council.

“My goal in sponsoring this legislation is economic justice,” said Ald. Johnson. “Before this ordinance change, failure to pay a parking citation within 10 days meant a late-payment penalty was assessed to the original ticket. Residents living paycheck to paycheck now have a longer grace period to pay a citation in full, thus breaking a cycle of missed payment deadlines and ever-increasing late-payment penalties. Such penalties can push the cost of the citation beyond a person’s ability to pay.”

Research requested by Ald. Johnson indicates that several U.S. cities have greater grace periods than Milwaukee’s previous 10 days including Cincinnati (14 days), Cleveland (15 days), Minneapolis/St. Paul (21 days), Chicago (21 days), and St. Louis (30 days).