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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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## Amended 2020 budget addresses public safety, creates birthing moms pilot, and supports neighborhood cleanup initiatives

In a collaborative effort amongst members, the Milwaukee Common Council today adopted an amended 2020 City of Milwaukee budget in the amount of approximately \$1.61 billion. The budget tackles many of the pressing issues facing the city including public health, safety and much more.

Among the top priorities in this year's budget are public safety and reckless driving. The budget includes additional funding for the Multimodal Transportation Capital Program to implement the Milwaukee Pedestrian Plan offered by lead sponsor Alderman Robert J. Bauman. Additional amendments that target safety include the creation of a Reckless Driving Task Force recommendations special fund within the Department of Public Works, part of Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs' omnibus amendment; additional funding to support the Police Ambassador Program led by Aldermen Nik Kovac and Michael J. Murphy; and \$300,000 to support violence interrupters, offered by Council President Ashanti Hamilton and Alderwoman Chantia Lewis. Violence interrupters are citizens in priority neighborhoods as outlined in the Blueprint for Peace who are trained by the Office of Violence Prevention to mediate conflicts likely to result in gun violence or other serious injury. To date, violence interrupters are credited with diffusing 65 potentially violent conflicts.

"We faced many struggles this year in terms of balancing spending priorities without additional revenue streams. Despite these challenges, the Council was able to work collaboratively to make sure residents receive the greatest impact for their tax dollars," said **Council President Ashanti Hamilton**.

The budget also establishes a Birthing Moms Pilot Program that would support mothers and families with newborns leaving hospitals in areas where blood lead levels among children are elevated. The families in these targeted areas would leave the hospital with a kit that contains a water filter and other lead related educational materials. This amendment was championed by Alderman José G. Pérez and others as part of the omnibus amendment.

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## 2020 budget/ADD ONE

Additional budget amendments include funding to restore bi-weekly street sweeping and the creation of a complaint-based rapid response team to support neighborhood cleanliness, led by Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II; funding for an Emergency Housing Program by lead sponsor Alderwoman Lewis; \$1.2 million for alley reconstruction offered by Alderman Stamper; position authority and funding for a Healthy Food Access Coordinator, part of the omnibus amendment; funding to install baby changing stations in restrooms at city libraries and clinics, offered by Aldermen Cavalier Johnson and Kovac; funding for an additional Recruiter and Testing Coordinator within the Fire and Police Commission, driven by Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd and others; and more.

Finance and Personnel Committee Chair **Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs** said she looks forward to the impact this budget will have throughout the city, “The goal during this budget process was to prioritize the means by which the city can make the biggest impact on quality of life for residents in the most fiscally responsible way. Even though the budget remains tight, I am proud that many great ideas were born out of this process. I want to thank all of my colleagues for their time and effort in the name of stewardship on behalf of the people we serve,” she said.

An average homeowner will pay \$60.37 more compared to 2019’s budget. The levy total will be \$291,018,541 which is a 3.6% increase from the year before.

The budget will now head to Mayor Tom Barrett who will have until the close of business on November 19 to sign the budget.