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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 28, 2020

Ald. Milele A. Coggs  
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## **Ald. Coggs sponsors budget amendments addressing key community issues**

*Specific amendments tackle domestic violence, racial equity, trauma, lead  
and anti-displacement initiatives*

In advance of the Finance and Personnel Committee's budget amendment day hearing set for tomorrow – Thursday, October 29th at 9 a.m., **Alderman Milele A. Coggs** has sponsored several budget amendments seeking to address issues of need within the community.

The first amendment tackles the issue of domestic violence at a time when the city homicide rate has spiked in part due to increased domestic violence cases. The amendment adds additional funding to the Domestic Violence special fund in the Health Department, as well as funding for a Boys to Men program which would support recruiting and training coaches in the Coaching Boys to Men curriculum.

“The city needs to continue to think creatively on how we can address domestic violence which remains far too prevalent in our community and has led to deaths that we can work to prevent,” said Alderman Coggs. “This amendment would help provide additional funding for support services and create new avenues to address this issue.”

In support of racial equity, Alderman Coggs has sponsored a footnote directing the Office of Equity and Inclusion to cooperate with the City Clerk Inspector General in conducting a racial equity audit of all city departments. The Office of Equity and Inclusion would report to the Common Council on city equity and inclusion initiatives on a quarterly basis.

“As an employer, the city has to lead by example in terms of being inclusive. This footnote allows us to stay up to date on inclusion initiatives and provides greater transparency to the public on actions the city is taking,” Alderman Coggs stated.

**-More-**

## **Budget Amendments/ADD ONE**

Anti-displacement remains a key issue throughout Milwaukee and Alderwoman Coggs, who has continuously worked to prevent displacement citywide during her time in office, has sponsored two footnotes that take steps toward mitigating displacement. The first directs the Department of City Development (DCD) to develop marketing and outreach plans for down payment assistance, co-op, land trust, and other housing initiatives. Down payment assistance would target renters and properties in neighborhoods where increases in property values are expected consistent with the city's Anti-Displacement Plan. The second footnote further directs the DCD to develop preservation strategies for affordable housing as recommended in the Anti-Displacement Plan.

Regarding these amendments Alderwoman Coggs shared, "We must continue to be proactive when it comes to anti-displacement and utilize the plan we created to take the necessary steps to protect renters, home-owners and preserve neighborhoods."

Additionally, Alderwoman Coggs has sponsored three further amendments. The first directs the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) to collaborate with the Police Department, Fire Department and Fire and Police Commission to make trauma informed care training available for all Police and Fire employees, provide assistance in developing Standard Operating Procedures requiring referrals to such training, and report on the status of the trauma informed care training initiative to the Common Council within 6 months. The second amendment also directs the MHD to work with the Department of Administration on developing a voluntary Lead-Safe Registry initiative for city property owners.

Finally, Alderwoman Coggs has sponsored a footnote directing the Department of City Development to develop a Healing Space Initiative for re-purposing vacant lots in partnership with the Community Improvement Project (CIP) grant program. This proposed program would use city-owned vacant lots and CIP grant funds to improve those lots for use as healing spaces for Milwaukee neighborhoods and residents affected by traumatic events and conditions. These items are aimed at providing support for the health and well-being of residents.

Thursday's virtual meeting will be televised live on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at [city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25](http://city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25). All of the amendments submitted for discussion can be found [here](#).