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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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December 4, 2020

Ald. Milele A. Coggs  
(414) 286-2994

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Council members request opinion on available options to support selection of new police chief

Members of the Common Council today sent a letter (**attached**) to City Attorney Tearman Spencer requesting an opinion as to what options are available should a vote to select the new chief of police remain deadlocked after next week's meeting of the Fire and Police Commission.

The letter spearheaded by **Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs** states, "Last evening, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners deadlocked on the matter of selecting the next chief of police. Several votes were taken and the two sides of the matter seemed to hold their views firmly. It is true that the item was held until the next meeting. It is also true that a new member has been nominated to the Board by the Mayor who could, possibly, be a deciding vote. We do not, however, think it likely that those who voted yesterday with such commitment are likely to change their minds in just a few weeks. We also do not think it fair to place on the shoulders of a new member of a body of this consequence the burden of voting at the end of a process in which she has played no part."

It continues, "With this in mind, we would ask your office to opine as to what options the Common Council and the Mayor might have to move this process forward, if the Board remains deadlocked? The Milwaukee Police Department needs strong, progressive leadership and it needs it sooner rather than later. Any suggestions you might have regarding this matter would also be welcome."

In addition to Alderwoman Coggs the letter was signed by **Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis and Alderman José G. Pérez.**

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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • [www.city.milwaukee.gov](http://www.city.milwaukee.gov)

December 4, 2020

Mr. Tearman Spencer  
City Attorney  
City Hall, Room 800

Dear Mr. Spencer:

Last evening, the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners deadlocked on the matter of selecting the next chief of police. Several votes were taken and the two sides of the matter seemed to hold their views firmly. It is true that the item was held until the next meeting. It is also true that a new member has been nominated to the Board by the Mayor who could, possibly, be a deciding vote. We do not, however, think it likely that those who voted yesterday with such commitment are likely to change their minds in just a few weeks. We also do not think it fair to place on the shoulders of a new member of a body of this consequence the burden of voting at the end of a process in which she has played no part.

With this in mind, we would ask your office to opine as to what options the Common Council and the Mayor might have to move this process forward, if the Board remains deadlocked? The Milwaukee Police Department needs strong, progressive leadership and it needs it sooner rather than later. Any suggestions you might have regarding this matter would also be welcome.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

  
Milele A. Coggs,  
Alderwoman, 6<sup>th</sup> District

  
Ashanti Hamilton,  
Alderman, 1<sup>st</sup> District

  
Nik Kovac,  
Alderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

  
Nikiya Dodd,  
Alderwoman, 5<sup>th</sup> District

  
Khalif J. Rainey,  
Alderman, 7<sup>th</sup> District

  
Chantia Lewis,  
Alderwoman, 9<sup>th</sup> District

  
José G. Pérez,  
Alderman, 12<sup>th</sup> District

cc: Mayor Tom Barrett