



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 7, 2020

Dialogue and listening critical to moving forward

Statement of Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II and Alderman Khalif J. Rainey

The historic protests that were ignited by the murder of George Floyd at the knee of a Minneapolis Police officer are bringing forth important calls for reform in how Milwaukee and other communities do policing, and how local governments address a myriad of public safety and health issues affecting black and brown people.

The Community Task Force MKE (also known as ComForceMKE) is a diverse coalition in Milwaukee that has organized some of the local protests while strongly advocating for reforms and changes to address police and public safety issues in the community. ComForce MKE, along with Black Leaders Organizing Communities (BLOC), Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT), the African-American Roundtable MKE (AART) and the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP) have issued a list of demands, and we believe it is important for us to consider those demands (and others that we are sure will emerge in the coming days) and engage in a dialogue with them to bring about positive changes for the City of Milwaukee.

Likewise, we strongly encourage our colleagues, the Mayor, the Police Chief, the Governor, and all local officials to be open to listening to these groups and to consider dialogue and actions that could ultimately be beneficial to all of our constituents.

The voices coming from the streets and the protests are unified in many respects, and the messages being sent are resonating with large numbers.

In our view, it behooves us to be open to listening to what they have to say.