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ALDERMAN, 12TH DISTRICT

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Statement by Ald. José G. Pérez on the Nomination of Lafayette Crump to be the Commissioner of the Department of City Development

May 29, 2020

I welcome the nomination of Mr. Lafayette Crump by Mayor Barrett as his nominee to be the Commissioner of the Department of City Development. I very much respect Mr. Crump and his contributions to our community.

Mr. Crump has been nominated to head an agency that, in my judgment, has been blind to critical issues that cost our community dearly over the past 16 years. This vacancy is an opportunity to make a change and a chance to rebuild trust between the community and the Department that has become strained.

As I briefly explained to Mr. Crump when we spoke, some of the questions that the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee will expect thorough answers to during the confirmation hearings are:

- How will you ensure that a concern for displacement and gentrification is an integral consideration in every project – large and small? What is your plan to keep the Common Council and the community informed regarding these issues going forward?
- How will you address the neglect of neighborhood-level development that has become evident over the past decade? There are still unfulfilled promises from the Agency to invest in our communities from more than five years ago. Particularly, how will you use tax increment financing to assist in neighborhood redevelopment?
- We know from experience that cutting backroom deals with corporations does not work. It leaves the community's needs unanswered and it leaves our business partners exposed to unnecessary criticism. What will you do to keep community first and give businesses the confidence to pick Milwaukee?
- Many in the community, and certainly on the Common Council, see the Redevelopment Authority as unaccountable and unapproachable. How will you work to ensure its transparency to the Council and to the public?

I plan to establish a common vision for development with the Council and the Administration that impacts all of the City of Milwaukee, not just select neighborhoods.

I look forward to a candid conversation with Mr. Crump during the confirmation process and to hearing his vision and plans for the future of development in the City of Milwaukee.”

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