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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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May 11, 2020

**Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic**  
(414) 286-3769

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

**Ald. Ashanti Hamilton**  
(414) 286-3779

## Council members request extension of deadline to appeal property assessments

Members of the Milwaukee Common Council today (Monday, May 11) sent a joint letter (**attached**) to the City of Milwaukee Board of Review requesting an extension of the deadline to file a property assessment appeal.

The request, led by **Alderman Marina Dimitrijevic, Alderman Milele A. Coggs** and **Alderman Ashanti Hamilton**, states that the Board of Review under s. 70.47(7)(a), Wis. Stats., has the authority to waive the deadline after a “showing of good cause” and with a “proof of extraordinary circumstances.” The letter goes on to suggest that the global pandemic brought about by COVID-19 fulfills these criteria.

Alderman Coggs, whose district saw the highest increase in residential property values, believes a deadline extension would be of value to residents. “There are many people throughout Milwaukee who are grappling with a variety of issues including health and financial stability, while at the same time trying to navigate filing an appeal,” said Alderman Coggs. “We have heard from residents that this process can be confusing and complicated, so an extension of the deadline to file an appeal would allow for more people to utilize the process.”

-More-

## **BOR Request/ADD ONE**

Alderwoman Dimitrijevic, whose district also saw a double digit increase in residential property values, echoes the sentiment. “The goal should always be to make processes like this one as user-friendly and accessible as possible. Under the current circumstances I don’t believe that is the case, and an extension of the deadline would benefit many residents citywide,” said Alderwoman Dimitrijevic. “When I had a mother who lives in my district call our office about receiving a \$115,000 increase right after she was laid off of work due to COVID -19, I knew we needed to do what we can to allow her, and all city residents extra time to make their objections.”

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton wants to ensure this process remains fair and equitable. “Given everything people have going on in their lives right now, it could create a perception that the process is biased in favor of those who have the resources to access it, and we certainly want everyone who feels the need to file an appeal to be able to do so,” said Alderman Hamilton.

“The increase in 2020 assessments took me and many Milwaukeeans across the city by surprise. COVID-19 has disrupted many aspects of daily life, and allowing residents a matter of weeks during this pandemic to file their appeal isn’t the ideal way to conduct business,” said **Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd**.

Currently, those wishing to appeal their property assessment must do so by 4:45 p.m. on Monday, May 18. Information on appealing an assessment can be found at [milwaukee.gov/AppealsandAssistance674.htm](https://milwaukee.gov/AppealsandAssistance674.htm).



## CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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

May 11, 2020

The Honorable,  
Members of the City of Milwaukee Board of Review  
200 E. Wells Street, Room 507  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Honorable Members:

We write to strongly urge your honorable body to exercise your authority under s. 70.47(7)(a), Wis. Stats., to extend the deadline for property owners to appeal their 2020 assessments by 30 days. As you know better than most, the standard provided to you under this provision is that a waiver of the deadline should only be after a “showing of good cause” and with a “proof of extraordinary circumstances”. If a global pandemic that has devastated our economy and left millions unemployed does not meet these standards, it is difficult to imagine what would.

This would be true even if there were not widespread concern about the accuracy of the assessment process undertaken during this pandemic – concerns much greater than those deriving from other assessments in recent memory. It may well prove that the vast majority of the assessments conducted are accurate and fair. When the process for assuring that this is so, however, involves the review undertaken by your honorable body, surely it is critical to allow as many as possible to gather their information, complete their paperwork accurately, and submit their applications to you? Yours is not a transparent or easy process, and we have heard from many who are confused by what materials they are to submit, by what standards their appeal will be judged, and other related questions. Being inordinately restrictive regarding this deadline could lead to a perception that the review process is biased in favor of those who have the resources to access it.

This delay may well create challenges for you. This unusual time, however, has created challenges for everyone including those whose cases the statutes ask you to review. A reasonable delay -- 30 days -- at this time seems to us to be good public policy and an action in the interest of the common good.

Respectfully,



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



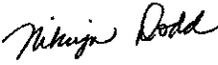
President Cavalier Johnson,  
Alderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> District



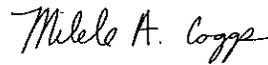
Nik Kovac,  
Alderman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District



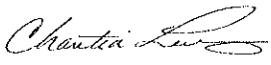
Robert J. Bauman,  
Alderman, 4<sup>th</sup> District



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



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



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



Michael J. Murphy,  
Alderman, 10<sup>th</sup> District



Mark A. Borkowski,  
Alderman, 11<sup>th</sup> District



Marina Dimitrijevic,  
Alderwoman, 14<sup>th</sup> District