
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 1, 2021

Ald. Milele A. Coggs

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Council members introduce file zeroing in on KIA and Hyundai anti-theft system issues

Aldewoman Milele A. Coggs and Alderman Khalif J. Rainey have introduced a Common Council communication file seeking information on how the city is addressing the ongoing issue with KIA and Hyundai vehicles, which have become favorite targets of car thieves because of certain security system shortcomings.

The legislation – **Council file #210367** – asks the Milwaukee Police Department and the Office of the City Attorney to provide testimony to the Public Safety and Health Committee on what is being done to address the KIA and Hyundai issues, as well as what legal options may be available to the city to respond to the problem. **Aldewoman Nikiya Dodd** is listed as a co-sponsor of the file.

Earlier this month (in nearly identically-worded letters), Aldewoman Coggs and Alderman Rainey urged the heads of KIA and Hyundai to bolster their anti-theft systems so as to make their models harder to steal. The letters noted the jump in frequency with which the KIA and Hyundai models are stolen in the City of Milwaukee, according to the Milwaukee Police Department and backed up by posts on social media.

The letters stated, in part: “We recently asked our police department to review what we perceived to be a spike in vehicle theft. The results were disturbing. To date in 2021, the number of thefts has increased 181% over the same period in 2020. This spike began in November 2020 and was almost immediately associated by police officials with automobiles manufactured by your company and one other. Vehicles manufactured by your two companies have accounted for 66% of those stolen in 2021 – a number wildly out of proportion with their presence in this city.”

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KIA and Hyundai file/ADD ONE

Alderwoman Coggs has said she learned anecdotal information that the KIA and Hyundai models targeted by thieves are – for various reasons - easier to steal. The stolen vehicles are often involved in reckless driving incidents and crashes that are taking a toll on neighborhoods and victims across Milwaukee, she said, also noting the manufacturers owe it to their customers to fix the deficiency issues that make the vehicles easier to steal.

Alderman Rainey has said he believes KIA and Hyundai are contributing, in part, to the drain on police and other city resources that have been directed to deal with the rash of vehicle thefts and the havoc those thefts have brought to the city.

The file has not yet been scheduled for a Public Safety and Health Committee hearing.

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