

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 12, 2021

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

Council looks to maximize positive benefits with ARPA-funded housing rehab and construction work

With significant investments in housing rehabilitation and new construction funded by the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) on the near horizon for Milwaukee neighborhoods, the Common Council today approved legislation that seeks to maximize pathways to new homeownership, opportunities for local hiring and local contracting, and an overall emphasis on strengthening lower-income neighborhoods.

Common Council file #210967 (**attached**) – authored by **Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs** and supported by 11 co-sponsors – requires all city ARPA allocations for housing rehabilitation and new construction to ensure that seven things are prioritized with regard to possible neighborhood impacts (including resident displacement), job training and local hiring/contracting opportunities, owner-occupied homeownership, and efforts to increase homeownership among African-American and Latino communities.

The Department of City Development will handle the review of each project as it relates to the seven standards approved as part of the legislation, with the cooperation and collaboration of other City departments as needed.

Alderwoman Coggs, chair of the Licenses Committee and a member of the Finance and Personnel Committee, said the legislation will help to “leverage the best possible results” when allocating ARPA dollars for housing rehab and new construction.

-More-

ARPA housing work funding/ADD ONE

“We know that the ARPA funding is providing a unique opportunity to support and increase access to quality housing and job-skills training and workforce opportunities across many Milwaukee neighborhoods where that new and rehabilitated housing is sorely needed,” she said. “The resolution we passed today helps ensure that not a single hammer is swung on a project until the seven criteria are evaluated (for that project) by the Department of City Development.”

Council members also included in the resolution’s standards language to ensure the strengthening of existing homebuyer readiness programs, and for any measure that puts money into existing programs, each program’s criteria is to be evaluated for unnecessary barriers to applicants.

The co-sponsors of file #210967 are **Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II, Alderwoman Nikiya Dodd, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderman Robert J. Bauman, Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderman Cavalier Johnson and Alderwoman Marina Dimitrijevic.**

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IMMEDIATE ADOPTION

..Number

210967

..Version

SUBSTITUTE 2

..Reference

..Sponsor

ALD. COGGS, HAMILTON, LEWIS, STAMPER, DODD, PEREZ, ZAMARRIPA, RAINEY, BAUMAN, KOVAC, JOHNSON AND DIMITRIJEVIC

..Title

Substitute resolution relating to American Rescue Plan Act allocations for housing rehabilitation.

..Analysis

This resolution requires all American Rescue Plan Act allocations for housing rehabilitation and new construction include each of the following:

1. An evaluation of the project's impact on the surrounding community.
2. An evaluation of possible displacement of nearby residents prior to commencing housing rehabilitation.
3. Initiatives for workforce development requiring or prioritizing local hiring and local contracting.
4. Initiatives to prioritize owner-occupied homeownership, increase homeownership in qualified census tracts, and among the African-American and Latino communities.
5. Strengthening of existing homebuyer readiness programs.
6. For any housing resolution that puts money into existing programs, each program's criteria should be evaluated for unnecessary barriers to applicants.
7. Best efforts to leverage all ARPA allocations.

All these provisions shall be overseen by the Department of City Development with the cooperation and collaboration of other City departments as needed.

..Body

Whereas, Funding housing rehabilitations with American Rescue Plan Act allocations provides opportunities for job-skills training and employment for City residents, and for projects for local contractors; and

Whereas, Funding housing rehabilitations with American Rescue Plan Act allocations also provides opportunities to increase homeownership in qualified census tracts, and among the African-American and Latino communities; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee, that all American Rescue Plan Act allocations for housing rehabilitation and new construction include each of the following:

1. An evaluation of the project's impact on the surrounding community.

2. An evaluation of possible displacement of nearby residents prior to commencing housing rehabilitation.
3. Initiatives for workforce development requiring or prioritizing local hiring and local contracting.
4. Initiatives to prioritize owner-occupied homeownership, increase homeownership in qualified census tracts, and among the African-American and Latino communities.
5. Strengthening of existing homebuyer readiness programs.
6. For any housing resolution that puts money into existing programs, each program's criteria should be evaluated for unnecessary barriers to applicants.
7. Best efforts to leverage all ARPA allocations.

; and be it

Further Resolved, That all these provisions shall be overseen by the Department of City Development with the cooperation and collaboration of other City departments as needed.

..Drafter
LRB 177021-3
Aaron Cadle
October 12 2021