



**KHALIF J. RAINEY**  
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

### **VICE-CHAIR**

• Public Safety and Health

### **MEMBER**

• Community and Economic Development Committee

# **A Promise Kept and a Future Prospect**

## **Statement from Alderman Khalif J. Rainey December 21, 2023**

When I graduated high school, I had the great fortune to receive a scholarship from a local philanthropist to attend college. The only stipulations he placed on this generous gift were that I study hard, work hard, and then bring back what I had learned to my community for use in its service. I have spent my entire professional life trying to keep that promise.

Since my election to the Milwaukee Common Council, I have worked with my colleagues and the community to create legislation and programs that I thought worked to fulfill this promise. When my colleagues and I started talking about food deserts and how to end them, few even seemed to understand the problem. Now it's a priority. We lifted barriers for felons that prevented them from purchasing City-owned property. We pushed for simple, street-level changes to improve the cleanliness of our City and reduce reckless driving. We created an Equity Impact Statement to make legislation more transparent and evaluate it through a different lens.

We created "Hip Hop Week MKE", a celebration of an art form I care very deeply about, and raised Milwaukee's place in it to national notice.

We also created an Office of African-American affairs to acknowledge and directly address the unique problems of a community so long plagued by racism, both open and systemic.

A promise like the one I described above is never fully kept. It informs a lifetime. Now that I have decided not to seek re-election to Milwaukee's Seventh Aldermanic District, I am left with a great debt of gratitude as well as hope for the work yet to do.

I want to thank all those constituents who chose me to serve and were at the same time my reason for serving. Your prayers and encouragement were sometimes the only things that kept me going. Likewise, I want to thank all those who served with me on the Common Council, even when we sometimes disagreed. To the staff of the Office of the Common Council – City Clerk and all the other City departments, you have my gratitude. Milwaukee is better for your hard work.

To the next council member from the great Seventh District, please know that you will have my full support and best wishes. Whoever you are, believe that Milwaukee needs you.

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In May of 2024, I will no longer be on the Common Council. I can tell you this, though: I'm not going anywhere. We all have work to do in our community and I have a promise to keep.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

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