
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Milele A. Coggs
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Public Works Committee to take up files to address thefts of city-owned copper wire

The **Public Works Committee** will take up legislation on Wednesday (October 21) meant to address the surge in thefts of copper electrical wire used in the city's streetlighting infrastructure.

Council file **#260817** – sponsored by **Alderman Milele A. Coggs** – directs the Department of Public Works to collaborate with the Milwaukee Police Department and other relevant City departments, organizations and individuals to identify and evaluate measures to prevent electrical wire theft from City-owned infrastructure.

A second file sponsored by Alderman Coggs – Council file **#260819** – directs DPW to establish a reward program for individuals who provide information relating to the theft of electrical wires. Both files are co-sponsored by Alderman Andrea M. Pratt.

Alderman Coggs, chair of the Public Works Committee, said the rash of copper electrical wire thefts has caused several city neighborhoods to become less safe. "The streetlighting service outages have a negative impact on public safety and makes our residents feel less safe in their homes," she said. "The goal is to solicit the public's help in tracking down the people stealing the wire – through existing systems similar to our pothole reporting and our illegal dumping hotline – and to spur coordination among DPW, Milwaukee Police and other relevant parties to help identify additional measures to prevent electrical wire theft, improve enforcement efforts and reduce associated costs and service disruptions."

Alderman Coggs credits colleagues for coming at the electrical wire theft issue from different angles, noting Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II has a related file that will also be heard by the committee on Wednesday. "We are attacking the problem on multiple fronts," she said.

-More-

Wire thefts files/ADD ONE

Wednesday's meeting will be held at 9 a.m. in room 301-B at City Hall (200 E. Wells St.) and will be televised live on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.

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