Common Council President

12th District Alderman

José G. Pérez
City of Milwaukee Common Council

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Pres. José G. Pérez
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STATEMENT

Emerging Youth Achievement Advisory Committee and partners garner key data sharing fusion for city youth

I am excited and pleased to announce that the City of Milwaukee's Emerging Youth Achievement Advisory Committee, in coordination with Marquette University's Center for Urban Research, Teaching & Outreach (CURTO) and other local partners, has been selected for the Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) Learning Community to help build Milwaukee's capacity for responsible, participatory, and sustainable cross-sector data sharing.

Please go here to find out more about the City's selection for this prestigious grant.

We are blessed to have been selected by AISP Learning Community, and our initial use case will be examining chronic absenteeism by Milwaukee students. This use case will serve as a foundation for a broader youth data ecosystem that can eventually help public agencies, educational institutions, workforce partners, and community-based organizations coordinate efforts to improve education, employment, safety, health, and wellness outcomes for young people across the city. I want to sincerely thank Marquette University, CURTO, and especially Gabriel Velez, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the MU School of Education, and faculty director of CURTO, for his work in putting together and submitting the successful application.

The Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP) Learning Community—housed at the University of Pennsylvania—is a cohort-based peer network that supports state and local governments in developing and using Integrated Data Systems (IDS). In short, being part of the AISP Learning Community will give us the access to data and data-sharing that can have a profound impact on how we can understand the complex needs of individuals and families, allocate resources where they're needed most to improve services, and measure long-term and two-generation impacts of policies and programs.

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One of the key questions we will be looking at is how do unequal neighborhood and economic conditions contribute to chronic absenteeism and unequal educational success for students?

The bottom line is chronic absenteeism is both a critical issue that we as a city are facing, and also one that deeply impacts our youth. It is not about individual students or schools to address it, but requires us to better understand collective patterns and develop coordinated systems and actionable insights. This issue has been picked up as a core focus by Milwaukee Public Schools and City Forward Collective, and the Wisconsin Policy Forum will also have an upcoming report on it.

In our efforts, we will be working closely with students and local community members in an inclusive and transparent manner. Without their firsthand involvement and input, the data collecting and examining initiative we will be embarking on will not be valid.

Importantly, when I created the Emerging Youth Achievement Advisory Council (EYAAC), I did so with the vision of the city serving as a convener of thoughts and driver of policy as it relates to youth. The awarding of this AISP grant is proof we're on the right path to achieving those objectives.

We look forward to releasing our findings in a report at the appropriate time.

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