



January 28, 2008

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
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Foster Care Issues To Be Examined During City Hall Event Tuesday

2008 "Year of the Child" Initiative to be Discussed

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. will be hosting a news conference at City Hall tomorrow as a member of a consortium of city foster care providers looking to draw public attention to significant foster care issues in Milwaukee and Wisconsin.

The consortium will hold a news conference and briefing tomorrow (Tuesday, January 29, 2008) at 2 p.m. in the first floor rotunda at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. The news conference will be hosted by Ald. Davis and will include representatives of Fresh Start Family Services, New Horizon, Inc., and (Afro World Enterprises, LTD). The group issued this statement regarding tomorrow's event:

"As program directors, it has come to our attention that a disproportionate number of children in out-of-home care are children of color. We believe it is our responsibility to create opportunities that will increase cultural awareness among families we serve by partnering with other community organizations.

Fresh Start Family Services, New Horizon, Inc., and (**Afro World Enterprises, LTD**), are working on the "**Year of the Child**" initiative aimed at improving the health, safety, and well being of children. One area of child focus in particular will be improving transitional services available to foster youth who emancipate, or age out, of the foster care system. At a January 29, 2008, press conference in the Rotunda of City Hall, this consortium plans to invite community members and social service agencies to work collectively in developing cultural programs and opportunities for the disproportionate number of children of color in out-of-home care.

Our mission is to counter this problem by working with a number of child welfare agencies and politicians both locally and nationally to advocate for better transitional support for Wisconsin's youth. Once this mission is achieved, emancipated youth will have safe and appropriate housing, adequate healthcare, superior education and vocational training, and financial literacy."