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Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
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Ald. Davis Shares Ideas With National League Of Cities

Milwaukee Common Council member Joe Davis, Sr., chair of the Community and Economic Development Policy and Advocacy Committee (CED) of the National League of Cities (NLC), met with the organization last weekend in Fort Smith, Arkansas to discuss local issues and the role they play in the national political arena.

Ald. Davis, who was elected to the leadership position for 2008, led discussions on the importance of keeping the foreclosure and mortgage crisis in perspective in light of other economic failures. “Our discussions generated policy we plan to forward to Washington. Cities are struggling with the mortgage fallout and attention to infrastructure, neighborhood stabilization and assistance in housing are key priorities for America’s cities right now,” the alderman said. Milwaukee has recently received over 9 million dollars in federal aid money from the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 and the Common Council has created a 6-member panel of staff appointed by both the mayor and the Council to handle the funds.

The CED committee, which consists of 46 of the NLC’s 19,000 member cities, makes policy recommendations to the national board relating to housing, economic growth and workforce development. Ald. Davis said, “This weekend’s events provided an excellent venue for a solid exchange of ideas and that’s just what the NLC is designed to do.”

The series of workshops and meetings took place during Friday’s presidential debates and Ald. Davis noted, “This is why the NLC is important—the candidates made no reference to the strength of local governments, but here is a group of local government leaders working where the rubber meets the road. These are the policy advocates needed most right now. It was clear from our discussions that local government is the most rational government because we can’t get away from our constituents—we see them every day.”