

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



---

FOR INFORMATION CALL

---

April 29, 2008

Bill Arnold  
(414) 286-3285

## Council Members To Mark 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Of Fair Housing Law

*Law Passed by Common Council Struck Blow Against Housing Discrimination*

Common Council members will hold a news conference at **2:00 p.m. tomorrow (Wednesday, April 30, 2008) in the rotunda at City Hall, 200 E Wells St.** to commemorate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Council's passage of Milwaukee's Fair Housing Law. **Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr., Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Ald. Nik Kovac, and Ald. Milele A. Coggs** are expected to speak, and they will be joined by the law's original author, former alderwoman **Vel Phillips, Peggy Rozga**, writer and former wife of the late Father James Groppi, and others who participated in the open housing marches here in the 1960s. **Media coverage is invited.**

The Fair Housing Law was passed on a unanimous vote of the Common Council on April 30, 1968. Alderwoman **Vel Phillips**, along with a grassroots coalition of civil rights activists, protested peacefully and marched for 200 nights in order to achieve the passage of this law, which contributed to the passing of the historic 1968 federal Fair Housing Act. The Fair Housing Law in Milwaukee initially outlawed racial discrimination in the rental or purchase of real estate, and has since been expanded to include all protected classes.

**What:** News Conference commemorating the Fair Housing Law  
**When:** 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 30, 2008  
**Where:** Rotunda at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

-30-