



Willie L. Hines, Jr.
City of Milwaukee Common Council

**For Immediate Release:
September 26, 2008**

**Contact: Bill Arnold
286-3285**

President Hines Praises Joseph Zilber's Leadership, Commitment to Central City

Thoughtful, strategic partnerships will build on success of grassroots groups

Joseph Zilber remembers when his hometown neighborhood around N. 10th Street and W. Meinecke Avenue saw better days. By itself, that isn't unusual. Many people remember the rich history of Milwaukee's urban core. But what is unusual about Joseph Zilber is that he is not content to sit on the sidelines and watch the central city struggle. He is a man of leadership, character and commitment to making life better for every resident of Milwaukee.

With today's announcement that the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative will focus on Lindsay Heights in the 15th Aldermanic District (as well as Clarke Square on the south side), we are witnessing something truly noteworthy. As the alderman for this area, I find this plan to be intelligent and strategic, because it builds on the success of residents and community groups that already have a proven track record.

People like Tony Gibson, Abra Fortson, Sharon Adams, Corliss Wood, and others have been meeting faithfully as part of the Community Planning Council – a bottom-up initiative that seeks solutions and neighborhood improvements for average residents and homeowners. I have attended CPC meetings from the very beginning, and I believe that this is the best model for revitalization of the central city. Now, with the unparalleled support of the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative, I believe that the positive change will be exponential.

Once again, my sincere thanks go out to Joseph Zilber for his generous spirit and thoughtful plan of action. But he is not the only one who deserves praise. The residents of the Lindsay Heights area have built up a strong foundation over several years – not knowing that a Joseph Zilber even existed – and they are seeing the fruits of their labor with today's announcement.