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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr.
Ald. Michael Murphy
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Common Council Adopts 2008 City Budget That Puts Additional Officers On Patrol

The Common Council today approved a 2008 city budget that will free up more seasoned Milwaukee police officers to patrol city neighborhoods.

The 2008 tax rate approved by the Common Council today is \$8.017 per \$1,000 of assessed value – a 0.027% increase from the \$7.99 tax rate for 2007. The tax levy rose 3.36% – going from \$220 million in 2007 to just more than \$227 million for 2008. The new tax levy means that the owner of a \$150,000 home will see a \$4.05 increase in the city portion of the tax bill, from \$1,198.50 to \$1,202.55.

The budget – approved late this afternoon at the end of a seven-hour meeting in the Council Chamber at City Hall – added 18 police services assistants who will be able to take over non-crime fighting duties currently handled by sworn officers. Those sworn officers – many with years of police experience – will be freed up to patrol city streets and protect citizens, Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. said.

“The Common Council today carried out a fiscally wise budget move by approving the police services assistants,” Ald. Hines said. “The citizens of Milwaukee will be well served by having more police officers with more experience patrolling our streets and neighborhoods.”

Ald. Michael J. Murphy, chair of the Council’s Finance and Personnel Committee, said the lengthy city budget process was challenging, especially in light of the long delay in the approval of a state budget and the city receiving a zero increase in state shared revenue. “But I believe the Council performed its work diligently and in the end did an admirable job of approving a lean, responsible budget that will not overburden city taxpayers,” Ald. Murphy said.

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