

Mayor Cavalier Johnson’s Coordinated Investment in Uptown

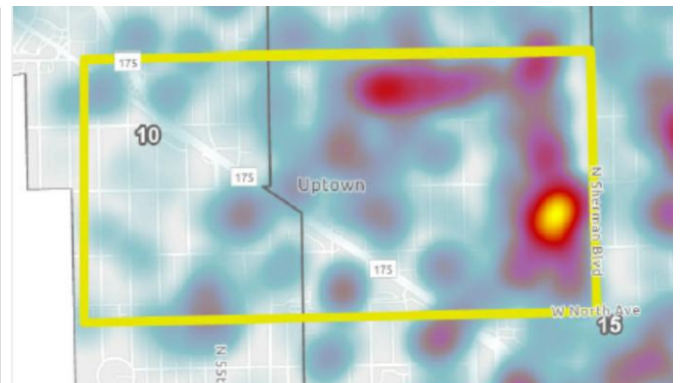
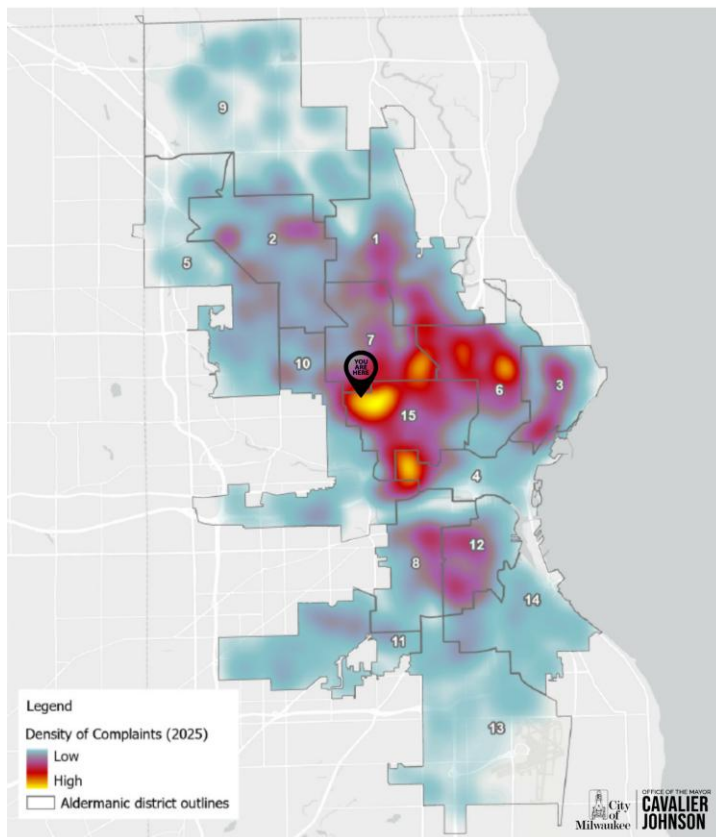
During Mayor Cavalier Johnson’s 2026 three-month Adopt-A-Neighborhood initiative, City departments concentrated resources and services throughout Uptown. Uptown was selected through a data-driven approach that examined neighborhood conditions and City service needs, helping identify an area where a coordinated concentration of resources could make a meaningful impact. From infrastructure and public safety to fire prevention, literacy, housing, small business support, neighborhood cleanups, and direct resident engagement, the initiative brought City government directly into the neighborhood.

As the 2026 initiative concludes, department submissions demonstrate a broad footprint of work across Uptown. The success of Adopt-A-Neighborhood is reflected not in one project or event, but in the combined impact of departments working together to address neighborhood needs, respond to identified concerns, and to connect residents with City resources.

About the Uptown Neighborhood

Uptown is located on Milwaukee’s northwest side and is generally bounded by W. Center Street to the north, W. North Avenue to the south, N. Sherman Boulevard to the east, and N. 60th Street to the west.

DNS Code Compliance Complaint Heatmaps



The neighborhood includes a mix of residential blocks, schools, community institutions, and locally owned businesses, with North Avenue and Lisbon Avenue serving as important commercial corridors. Uptown Crossing Business Improvement District #16, established in 1995, supports businesses and commercial properties along portions of both corridors through business resources, beautification, placemaking, and economic-development efforts.

2026 Adopt-A-Neighborhood Impact at a Glance

\$28,688.95 Commercial Grants Identified revitalization support along North Avenue	NEIGHBORHOOD-WIDE City Services Streetlights, potholes, crosswalks, storm inlets, public safety and more
160 Fire Hydrants Scheduled and/or completed for inspection and maintenance	334 Children & Families Approximately reached through Milwaukee Public Library's summer outreach

Infrastructure & Neighborhood Conditions

From major sewer and paving work to block-by-block maintenance, Milwaukee's Department of Public Works (DPW) addressed both long-term infrastructure and everyday neighborhood conditions.

Sewer Improvements

- N. 46th Street, W. Clarke Street to W. Center Street - replacement of poor-condition sewers, with completion scheduled by the end of 2026.
- W. Lisbon Avenue, N. 45th Street to N. 52nd Street - replacement of poor-condition sewers, with completion scheduled by the end 2026.
- These projects built upon additional sewer work completed earlier in 2026 on N. 46th Street from W. North Avenue to W. Wright Street.

Street Safety Improvements

DPW advanced a High Impact Paving project on W. Mount Court from N. 54th to N. 55th street, replacing damaged roadway surface with two inches of new asphalt and upgrading curb ramps for ADA compliance. High Impact Paving is also in progress on N. 53rd Street from W. Lisbon Avenue to W. Burleigh Street.

At the intersection of N. 51st and W. Center Street, traffic-safety improvements being constructed include replacement of traffic signals and curb ramps, along with new curb extensions and left-turn lanes designed to improve safety for people walking and driving.

Neighborhood-Wide Maintenance

- Streetlight LED upgrades
- Storm inlet inspection, cleaning and vacuuming, with repairs or replacements where needed
- Single-lamp streetlight outage repairs
- Permanent restoration of utility cuts
- Pothole patching and Repainting of existing painted crosswalks

160 FIRE HYDRANTS

Milwaukee Water Works scheduled maintenance throughout the Uptown service area, including inspection, greasing, operation, cleaning, and painting as necessary.



DPW crews perform routine maintenance on fire hydrants and pedestrian walkways throughout the Uptown neighborhood

Housing & Economic Opportunity

The Department of City Development (DCD) supported Adopt-A-Neighborhood through housing opportunities, commercial corridor assistance, small business investment, and neighborhood outreach.

Commercial Revitalization

Business / Property Location	City Grant Amount
Body By God Wellness 5927 W. North Ave.	\$994.95 Business signage support
Keren Properties LLC 5909 W. North Ave.	\$4,194 Business façade enhancements
Cloud 9 Workshop 5205 W. North Ave.	\$23,500 Signage, façade & storefront activation enhancements

\$28,688.95 in identified commercial revitalization grants

- DCD supported the annual assessment and operating plan process for Uptown Crossing Business Improvement District #16.
- Targeted marketing of Homes MKE property and program.
- Connected residents and businesses with housing rehabilitation, commercial corridor, real estate, and other City resources through Adopt-A-Neighborhood outreach activities.



Mayor Cavalier Johnson joins the Department of City Development, Visit Milwaukee, and the Milwaukee Police Department for a luncheon at Tricklebee Café with local business owners and representatives of the Uptown Crossing BID.

Public Safety in Uptown

The Milwaukee Police Department expanded its presence in Uptown through community engagement, property monitoring, traffic enforcement, targeted public-safety efforts, and direct engagement with residents and neighborhood businesses.

Activities included:

- Ongoing checks of City-owned and privately owned vacant properties throughout Uptown.
- Neighborhood cleanups on N. 44th Street, N. 52nd Street and N. 59th Street.
- Increased traffic enforcement with a focus on reckless driving and bicycle patrols throughout the neighborhood.
- Violent-crime sweeps conducted in partnership with local and federal agencies.
- Operation Summer Guardian, increasing uniformed police presence in areas experiencing violent crime and shots-fired incidents, with a focus on youth gun violence and positive police-community interactions.
- District 3 held a meeting with Uptown businesses and Mayor Johnson to share crime data, discuss public-safety concerns, and connect business owners with MPD resources. Discussion included reckless driving along North Avenue, the Traffic Safety Unit, and opportunities for continued engagement through monthly Crime & Safety Meetings.
- MPD's Criminal Investigation Bureau hosted a Donuts with Detectives community engagement event in Uptown, giving residents an opportunity to meet detectives, learn more about their role in investigating serious crimes, and build relationships with law enforcement through informal conversation.
- MPD participated in a July 28 food distribution Pop-Up event at Marcus DeBack Playground, providing another opportunity for direct community engagement and access to healthy food options.

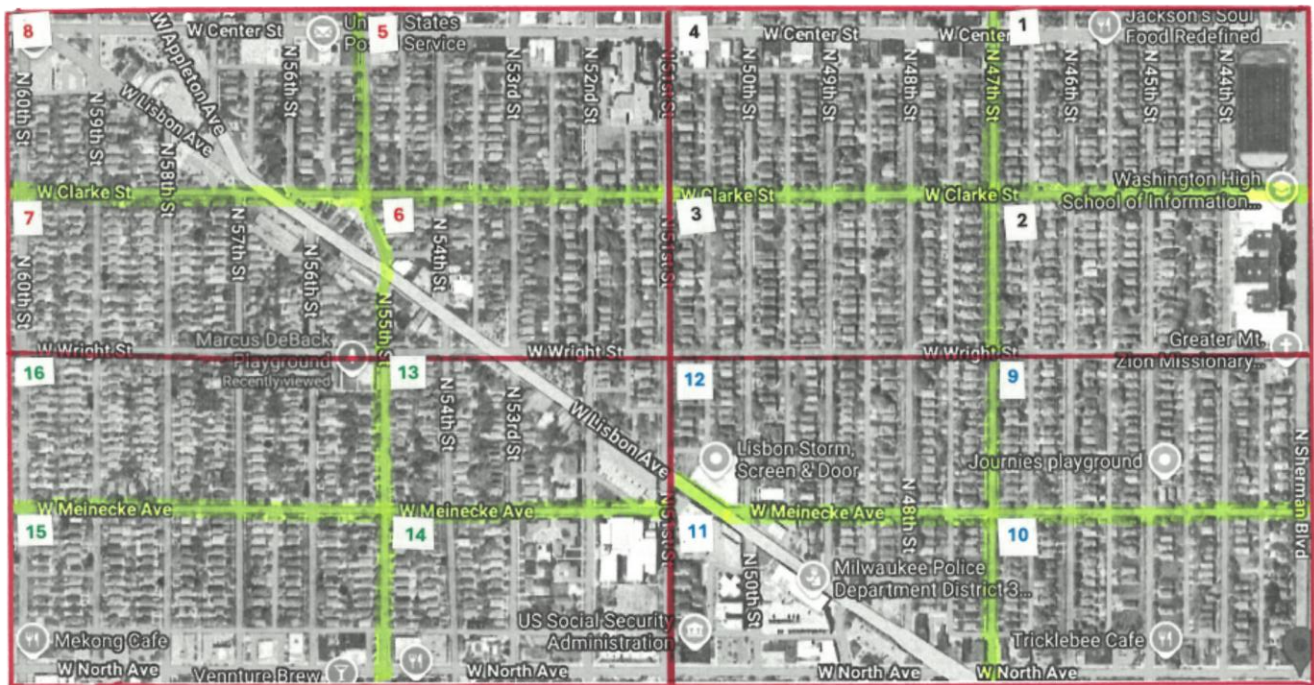
MPD also reported that Uptown had been included in nine violent-crime sweeps earlier in 2026, in addition to school-based safety outreach at Milwaukee French Immersion and Universal Scholars Academy.

Milwaukee Fire Department

One of MFD's signature investments was Project Mini F.O.C.U.S., which deployed fire companies throughout sections of Uptown to conduct door-to-door smoke-alarm checks and install alarms where needed. The department's submitted deployment map, seen below, divided the neighborhood into designated service areas to support the effort. Earlier 2026 engagement included fire apparatus displays, Survive Alive programming and observed school fire drills.

826

Throughout August, four participating Milwaukee Fire Department stations installed 826 smoke alarms in Uptown homes, helping strengthen fire safety for residents across the neighborhood.



Youth, Literacy & Learning

Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) extended Adopt-A-Neighborhood's reach to children, students, teachers and families throughout Uptown.

146

Children engaged across four child care centers through early-literacy activities, read-alouds, educational programming, and book giveaways.

188

Students reached across three school-age sites with engaging books, guided learning activities, read-alouds, and high-interest reading materials.

334

Children and students reached through MPL's summer outreach efforts across seven Uptown learning sites.

Summer Outreach to Child Care Centers

MPL partnered with Hopson's Kiddie Care, A Promise of Hope II, Teddy Bear Child Care and Tots Into Scholars. Participating sites were enrolled in MPL's summer reading model, supporting early literacy through recorded read-alouds, book talks, guided educational activities in English and Spanish, lesson-plan resources and giveaway books for children.



Mayor Johnson hosts a City Hall Day Town Hall at Marcus DeBack Playground on August 22 and joins residents for the annual Uptown Get Down Summer Series at Uptown 56 Park along North Avenue on August 27.

Summer Outreach to School-Age Students

MPL partnered with St. Catherine - Center for Urban Teaching Summer School, Milwaukee Math and Science Academy and Jo's Learning Academy. Programming introduced students to engaging books and included recorded read-alouds, guided activities, high-interest book collections and giveaway books for students. Jo's Learning Academy also had two planned summer visits to the Washington Park Branch for storytime and library engagement.

Year-Round Library Connections

Through the ongoing LibraryNow partnership with Milwaukee Public Schools, students at participating schools, including Washington High School, have free 24/7 access to MPL digital resources, tutoring, homework assistance, test preparation, eBooks, audiobooks and other resources.

MPL also continues first-grade library card signups and visits, connecting students with the Washington Park Branch and introducing them to library resources.

Community Wellness & Engagement

Department of Community Wellness and Safety

DCWS supported Adopt-A-Neighborhood through direct neighborhood engagement and community-building activities.

- Community cleanup beginning at N. 47th Street and W. North Avenue.
- Community cleanup beginning at W. Lisbon Avenue and N. 51st Street.
- Community engagement walk beginning at W. Center Street and Sherman Boulevard, connecting residents with resources and information about upcoming activities.
- Community pop-up at W. North Avenue and N. 51st Street, providing resources, resident engagement, and gun locks.

Department of Neighborhood Services

One of the most significant long-term outcomes of the 2026 Adopt-A-Neighborhood initiative is the creation of Milwaukee's new Rental Property Inspection Program. Developed through collaboration between the Mayor's Administration, the Department of Neighborhood Services, and Alderman Russel Stamper, the program establishes a proactive, data-driven approach to improving the quality and safety of rental housing.



The Department of Neighborhood Services highlights the anticipated long-term impact of Milwaukee's new Rental Property Inspection Program, which will launch its first inspection district in the Uptown neighborhood.

Under the new program, the City can designate Rental Property Inspection Districts in areas experiencing conditions such as high rates of building-code complaints or violations, blight, deteriorating property values, or increases in single-family homes being converted to rental properties. Within designated districts, eligible rental properties may be inspected initially and periodically for habitability violations.

Uptown was designated as Milwaukee's first Rental Property Inspection District, making the neighborhood the starting point for this new approach. The program is designed to move the City toward more proactive intervention—identifying housing concerns before they become larger problems, improving accountability, and supporting safer, more stable rental housing for residents.



Mayor Cavalier Johnson knocks on doors throughout Uptown to hear directly from residents about their experiences, concerns, and priorities.