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FOR INFORMATION CALL

December 5, 2005

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
(414) 286-2221

Youth Council To Host First Public Open Forum Dec. 7 At Rufus King High School

Common Council Participation Expected During 'Listening and Information Exchange' Event

A special public open forum featuring the City of Milwaukee Youth Council will take place Wednesday evening at Rufus King High School.

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr., who authored legislation creating the first-ever Youth Council last year, said the open forum will be the council's first public meeting held somewhere other than City Hall. "This meeting is intended to provide an opportunity for the Youth Council members to listen to their peers about issues that are of concern to them and to share information about their work and their roles on the council," said Ald. Davis, who will not be able to attend the event because of a National League of Cities conference he's participating in this week in North Carolina. Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, who represents the Rufus King area, has said he will attend the forum.

The open forum will be held in the auditorium at Rufus King High School, 1801 W. Olive St., starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2005. It is free and open to the public. Media coverage is invited.

Since its members were confirmed by the Common Council and formally inaugurated in May, the Youth Council has been meeting regularly to discuss issues affecting young people in Milwaukee. The council has also been receiving regular briefings and question-and-answer time with city department heads to learn more about the inner workings of city government. The body also has selected its first president – Arlee Vang of the 10th District – a student at Hamilton High School.

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Youth Council To Hold Open Forum/ADD ONE

Ald. Davis said the City of Milwaukee Youth Council's best work so far has been its willingness to review Common Council items and offer input. "They (Youth Council members) receive the new legislation packet prior to every meeting of the Common Council and have asked many questions and offered their insights," Ald. Davis said. "It's been very helpful and refreshing."

The City of Milwaukee Youth Council is comprised of 15 high school students ages 18 and under, with one from each aldermanic district. The group represents various ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and includes white, African American, Latino and Hmong students. Earlier this year a total of 64 young people filled out and submitted applications to serve on the Youth Council.

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