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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
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Crime Prompts Alderman, Neighborhoods To Adopt Community Standards Initiative

*Residences Generating Police Calls and Nuisance Complaints Will Be Asked To Get
Act Together Or Face Sanctions, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton Says*

After holding several community meetings in the 1st Aldermanic District with residents concerned about increasing criminal activities in their neighborhoods, Ald. Ashanti Hamilton says he's moving ahead with a community standards initiative designed to identify and root out properties that generate crime and other problems.

The community standards initiative, Ald. Hamilton said today, is about "empowerment, prioritizing and coordination." "Dwindling resources has become an excuse for accepting intolerable behavior in our community, but this initiative takes an aggressive approach to identifying, isolating and shutting down drug houses and other properties that don't comply with standards residents living in the area have already set for the community."

The initiative was developed with input from and has the support of the Havenwoods Economic Development Corp., the Northwest Side Community Development Corp., the Lincoln Park Community Center, and the Agape Community Center.

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Community Standards Initiative/ADD ONE

The initiative would work by having the Milwaukee Police Department or the Department of Neighborhood Services investigate complaints of non-compliance with community standards to determine whether criminal activity and/or code violations are occurring on the property. Continued non-compliance with the community standards could result in disciplinary actions against the property owner even if the criminal investigation is still pending and charges have not been filed. “The city’s Chronic Nuisance Ordinance along with other city programs allow residents to take action against criminals, absentee landlords, and irresponsible neighbors whose actions depreciate property values and threaten the health, safety and welfare of constituents,” said Ald. Hamilton.

Ald. Hamilton said the City of Milwaukee has several programs that focus on nuisance properties, drug houses, and board-ups. He said these programs were created to address quality of life issues but have been severely underutilized. This initiative will coordinate the efforts of DNS, police, and community-based organizations so that residents can leverage the many tools that are available to them to protect their neighborhoods.