
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

April 21, 2005

Ald. Mike McGee, Jr.
(414) 286-2221

Vigil Saturday To Emphasize Street-Level, Neighborhood Code Of Conduct

*Respect Kampain Initiative Aimed at Non-Violent Conflict Resolution,
Promoting "Healthy Behaviors" to Help Stem Violence*

A community prayer vigil will be held Saturday near where 7-year-old Nikeema Hubanks was struck in the head by a stray bullet while she played outside her home. Nikeema later died of her injuries, and a rash of recent shootings and homicides in the city has sparked public outrage and a renewed call for an end to the deadly violence.

In a move to help stop the violence and to put forth a recommended set of rules for residents to abide by, Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. will host the Respect Kampain Code of Conduct Prayer Vigil at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2005 in 2600 block of N. 5th St. (between W. Clarke and W. Center Streets). The public is welcome and media coverage is invited.

Statistics show Milwaukee has a higher per capita rate of homicide than New York City, and the city's homicide rate for African American males is an astounding 75 per 100,000 people, Ald. McGee said. "We have to change our mindset and try something new, or else I fear we will continue to lose our friends, our loved ones and more of our innocent children to senseless violence," he said.

Ald. McGee said a Respect Kampain Street Code flyer will be distributed at the vigil, and he hopes to distribute 100,000 of the flyers in targeted city neighborhoods in the coming weeks and months.

-More-

Code of Conduct Vigil/ADD ONE

The flyer includes several rules or directives to follow, including:

- ?? Adopt an elder (someone who is at least 60 years old)
- ?? Respect each other like you respect your mother
- ?? Get a spiritual sense of purpose
- ?? Turn your music down when you see older people
- ?? No hating, no snitching, no stealing, no lying
- ?? Always protect family & community

Ald. McGee said he hopes to follow up the vigil with a series of team-building and conflict resolution workshops at events such as block parties, churches and schools in strategically located neighborhoods. “This is about outreach at the neighborhood level, reaching young people and exposing them to the code of conduct, and to this new mindset,” he said.