
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

November 29, 2005

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

Slavery Disclosure, Reparations Ordinance Goes To Council's Finance & Personnel Committee

Ald. McGee's Proposed Ordinance To Be Heard Tomorrow At City Hall

A proposed ordinance sponsored by Ald. Mike McGee, Jr. that would require companies and contractors who do business with the City of Milwaukee to fully disclose any participation in or profits derived from slavery will be discussed tomorrow during a meeting of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee.

The Finance and Personnel Committee meeting tomorrow (Wednesday, November 30, 2005) will begin at 9:00 a.m. in room 301-B of City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Members of the public and the media are invited to attend.

Common Council Legislative File No. 050284, introduced in June by Ald. McGee, would require businesses and contractors seeking city contracts to complete an affidavit verifying that they have searched all of the business or company records regarding investments or profits from slavery or slaveholder insurance policies during the slavery era. **(Please see accompanying legislative documents for additional details).**

A business or contractor acknowledging profits derived from slavery would be requested to release a statement of admission and apology to the citizens of Milwaukee, and any contractor or business disclosing activities relating to investments or profits from slavery or slaveholder insurance policies will be required to deposit an amount "equal to 100% of the dollar amount of the contract" into a special city account that will be used for funding scholarships, job training initiatives and entrepreneurship programs in the city.

-More-

Slavery Reparations Ordinance/ADD ONE

Ald. McGee has said the ordinance seeks to “put all of the laundry – even the old dirty laundry” of contractors and business entities out in the open for the public to examine. With Milwaukee’s Black population of approximately 225,000 – more than 37 percent of the total population – it is “only just and transparent” to reveal any past ties to slavery that exist with contractors and other businesses that receive city monies, he said.

Additionally, the ordinance also includes specific penalties and sanctions for contractors who fail to provide the affidavit within a prescribed time limit or who fail to accurately disclose information related to slavery profits and/or participation.