



April 6, 2005

Ald. Michael J. Murphy
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Missing Out On A Tax Credit?

City Officials Want to Drive Home the Message to Low-income Residents

If you're a low-income worker, the City of Milwaukee wants to make sure you claim and receive a tax credit you're entitled to. Thousands of city residents may be eligible and not know it, unwittingly passing up several thousand dollars by not taking advantage of the benefit. The Earned Income Tax Credit, or EITC, is a federal income tax credit for low-income workers who meet certain eligibility requirements.

Ald. Michael J. Murphy, chair of the Common Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, says people who are entitled to the credit under the law should get it.

In order to help get the word out, Ald. Murphy will be joined by Mayor Tom Barrett and Deborah Blanks, president of the Social Development Commission, during a news conference at City Hall this morning, Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at 11:30 a.m. to encourage the thousands of Milwaukee workers who are eligible for the tax credit to file for it. The news conference will be held in the rotunda of Milwaukee City Hall, 200 E. Wells St. Media coverage is welcome.

"The earned income tax credit is one of the easiest ways for hard working citizens to claim their earnings back from the government," said Ald. Murphy. "We want to send the message to Milwaukeeans that they deserve to keep the money that they have worked hard to earn as members of our community, money that can go a long way toward supporting themselves and their families."

According to the IRS more than 22,000 eligible taxpayers in the City of Milwaukee did not claim EITC in 2002, leaving more than \$33 million unclaimed.