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## Common Council Adopts First Sub-\$8 Tax Rate Budget In 50 Years

Early this evening the Milwaukee Common Council adopted a 2007 city budget with a final tax rate below \$8.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value – a level not seen since 1956.

In its final action today, the council came in some \$2,000 over the levy proposed in Mayor Tom Barrett’s executive budget, and it means the council has adopted city budgets with flat or reduced tax rates 17 of the last 18 years. With the adopted 2007 tax rate of \$7.99 per \$1,000 of assessed value, Milwaukee comes in with the lowest percentage tax levy increase of any of the taxing bodies that are included on city tax bills (MPS, MATC, Milwaukee County, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District and State Forestry).

The 2007 tax rate approved by the Common Council today comes to slightly more than a 5% reduction from the final \$8.76 tax rate for 2006. The tax levy rose just under 5% – going from \$213 million in 2006 to just more than \$220 million for 2007. The new tax levy means that the owner of a \$100,000 home will see a \$77 decrease in the city portion of the tax bill, from \$876 to \$799.

In the end the Council’s approved budget was more than \$107,000 under the state-imposed property tax “freeze.”

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## **2007 Budget Adopted/ADD ONE**

Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. said the council entertained a wide array of budget amendments and alterations, taking the best and most workable ideas to create savings and efficiencies for taxpayers. “We put in a huge amount of work to make sure we kept our city services at a level where we maintain our quality of life while not breaking the backs of our taxpayers,” Ald. Hines said.

President Hines credited Ald. Michael J. Murphy, chair of the Council’s Finance and Personnel Committee, with “thoughtfully and skillfully” guiding the weeks-long budget deliberations and hearings process. “I think it’s also a tremendous credit to the Council as whole that we have a city tax rate so low that it hasn’t been seen here since Dwight D. Eisenhower was in the White House and the Braves were knocking balls out of a brand new County Stadium,” he said.

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