
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Benefits Ordinance Approved by Common Council

Measure Now Goes to Mayor Barrett for Signature

The Common Council today voted 8-7 to approve an amended file #080218, an ordinance that creates wage standards and city resident hiring requirements for commercial developments that receive at least \$1 million in financial assistance from the City of Milwaukee.

The heavily debated ordinance was discussed at length for more than two hours on the Council floor during today's regular meeting at City Hall. The approval means several changes are now in effect for development projects receiving at least \$1 million in city assistance. Specifically, public works projects and developments receiving at least \$1 million in city assistance – including projects getting tax incremental financing or TIF monies – are now compelled to create jobs and apprenticeship opportunities that employ local residents, and must also give consideration to local business enterprises.

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, the primary sponsor of the ordinance, praised colleagues for their help in crafting and ultimately passing the measure. "This is a groundbreaking ordinance that will ensure that Milwaukee receives a public return on a public investment while also making sure that the jobs created will help sustain families and communities," he said. "I've been amazed by the thoughtful and at times critical input by my colleagues, but it helped make the ordinance better and stronger in the end."

Co-sponsors were Alderman Nik Kovac, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderman Willie C. Wade, Alderman Joe Davis, Sr. and Alderman Bob Bauman.

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Benefits Ordinance Passes/ADD ONE

Alderwoman Coggs, responding to claims that the measure needed more consideration said, “More than 4,700 homes are in foreclosure proceedings, many in my district. My residents need jobs to pay their mortgage; they need jobs to pay their bills. The time to act is now, we can no longer put measures that create employment for our residents on hold.”

“This ordinance is the City of Milwaukee's commitment to its residents that from this point forward, we will be making the necessary investments in our citizens as the future workforce for Milwaukee and Southeastern Wisconsin,” Ald. Wade said. “It is only fair that when a development receives a city tax payer subsidy it is mandatory that the city residents have job opportunities. This is our attempt to reestablish the city of Milwaukee's middle class,” he said.

Supporters of the proposal, including labor unions, argued that the ordinance will help ensure family-supporting wages for people hired to work on building commercial developments, hotels, stores and other businesses.