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Common Council Committee Approves Benefits Ordinance

Measure Goes to Full Council Tuesday Morning

The Common Council's Community and Economic Development Committee today voted 3-2 to recommend approval of file #080218, an ordinance, which if approved by the full Council will help create wage standards for commercial developments that receive at least \$1 million in financial assistance from the City of Milwaukee.

The ordinance makes several changes regarding the requirements for participation by city residents in public works projects and development projects receiving at least \$1 million in city assistance, including projects getting tax incremental financing or TIF monies. With the proposed ordinance in effect, businesses would be compelled to create jobs and apprenticeship opportunities that employ local residents, and to give consideration to local business enterprises. Sponsors have said the proposed ordinance is a reasonable "win-win" that will broaden the benefits for the city, city residents, and the businesses involved.

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

The ordinance, sponsored by Ald. Ashanti Hamilton, Ald. Willie Wade, Ald. Nik Kovac and Ald. Milele A. Coggs, is scheduled to be before the full Common Council tomorrow (Tuesday, March 3, 2009). **Tomorrow's Council meeting starts at 9 a.m. in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**

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