

From:

Hezron Lopez and Motiya Lopez
Owner, 532 and 534 N. Water Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

To:

Milwaukee Police Department
749 W State St
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Date: September 10, 2025

Re: Element Night Club and City Social Night Club

Dear Chief Norman and Members of the Milwaukee Police Department,

I am writing to you not only as a property owner at **532 and 534 N. Water Street**, but also as a lifelong advocate for Milwaukee's downtown and Third Ward. I am deeply concerned about the unchecked crime, violence, and disorder centered around **Element Night Club and City Social**, which are gravely undermining the safety, health, and prosperity of our community. These two Clubs invite and promote the type of savage violence that's harming Downtown and the Third Ward. Alderman Bauman should be ashamed to have allowed and supported the licensee of these clubs. He should not stand for reelection, and we should elect someone who cares about Downtown Milwaukee, the Third Ward and surrounding areas like the Lake Front.

Over the past year, I have personally suffered **financial losses exceeding \$100,000** due to tenant departures citing safety, noise, murder and filth in the immediate vicinity. This is not a sustainable path, and unless urgent corrective action is taken, we risk losing the vitality of Milwaukee's downtown core, including the jewel of our community — the **Milwaukee Public Market** and the **Third Ward**. Below are a few considerations and attached to **Exhibit A** are links to articles, emails, etc. as substantiation for my request to close Element and City Social.

1. Historical Pattern of Violent Crime and Shootings

- On July 12, 2025, two people were shot and killed near Water and Michigan
- On July 19, 2025, another fatal shooting occurred near Broadway and Juneau
- In June 2025, a deadly shooting occurred on the 500 block of N. Water Street, leaving multiple victims
- In 2021 at Brownstone (owned by the same owner as City Social) a deadly shooting occurred on the 500 block of N. Water Street – killing Krystal Tucker
- There have been many police calls to Element and to City Social – none of this is new



2. Escalating Disorder

- Public records reveal **little enforcement of loitering, curfew, illegal drugs, and open alcohol violations**, despite well-known late-night problems
- Groups of intoxicated individuals regularly congregate around **Element and City Social**, leading to **graffiti, trash, aggressive panhandling, and public drunkenness**

3. Reputation and Economic Risk

- National media has praised Milwaukee as a “top place to be” and highlighted the **Public Market as #1 in the country**. However, this positive momentum is now overshadowed by stories of violence and fear that are reaching HR departments of major downtown companies, and may deter new companies from locating downtown

Based on past events and current patterns, it is reasonable to predict:

- **Continued escalation of shootings:** Without aggressive enforcement, Water Street risks becoming permanently branded as “Murder Alley”
- **Flight of businesses and residents:** My residential tenants are already breaking leases, costing me over \$100,000 over the last 12 months, and companies are beginning to question whether Milwaukee is a safe place to retain employees
- **Collapse of downtown reputation:** As one local business owner noted, problems are often *outside* the bars — meaning violence spills into the public realm, affecting all businesses, not just nightlife
- **Economic blight:** Just as Northridge Mall became a symbol of crime and decay, unchecked disorder on Water Street could destroy both **Downtown Milwaukee and the Third Ward**

In the past year alone, my properties at 532 and 534 N. Water Street have lost over \$100,000 due to:

1. **Tenants breaking leases due to safety concerns linked directly to City Social and Element.**
2. **Tenants leaving due to late-night noise, filth, and trash accumulation from these venues.**
3. **Negative perception of violence driving customers, residents, and businesses away.**

Credible news coverage supports this reality:

- **Multiple homicides in the district encompassing downtown this year already exceed prior years**
- **Local lawmakers, business owners, and residents are voicing alarm about Water Street violence, demanding more enforcement**
- **Even city officials admit enforcement of curfew, loitering, and open-alcohol violations has been grossly insufficient**

Lastly, this is not a racial issue. I am an **African American property owner**, and tragically, it is **African Americans who are disproportionately being murdered and harmed** in these violent incidents. Don't let the common council make this a racial issue. It is not a racial issue. It is an issue of safety, economics and progress. We want progress.

Milwaukee's future and brand are at stake. If the crime, filth, and violence around Element and City Social persist, we will **no longer have a strong downtown or thriving Third Ward**. The Public Market, the pride of our city, will be abandoned by locals and tourists alike.

I respectfully urge the Milwaukee Police Department to:

1. **Cancel the licenses of both** Element and City Social – or limit their licenses to disallow dancing/club activities – limit license to beer and wine; disallow the loud music; and in the case of City Social, demand they close their doors so that the sound does not extend outside of their premises
2. **Increase patrols and visible enforcement** on Water Street, especially around City Social and Element
3. **Crack down on loitering, curfew violations, illegal alcohol, and drug use**
4. **Work with the Licensing Committee** to hold irresponsible proprietors accountable
5. **Partner with downtown businesses and residents** to restore order, safety, and pride to this vital area

If no action is taken, we risk losing decades of investment, reputation, and progress. I call upon the MPD to act decisively to protect Milwaukee's future.

Sincerely,

/s/ **Hezron Lopez and Motiya Lopez**

Owners – 532 and 534 N. Water Street

Exhibit A to Letter to MKE Police Department



hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Inquiry from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

7 messages

Tiedge, Sophia <STiedge@gannett.com>
To: "hezlopez@gmail.com" <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 9:38 AM

Good morning,

I hope this email finds you well. My name is Sophia Tiedge, a reporter from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and I'm reaching out because Alderman Bauman told me you had reached out to him regarding the shooting last weekend at ELMNT lounge, and I was wondering if you'd be interested in chatting with me about your thoughts on the matter. If so, I'm happy to chat sometime today or next week. Feel free to call me on my cell: 224-775-2442 or email me back at this address. Thank you so much and look forward to hopefully chatting with you soon.

Best,
Sophia Tiedge

hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>
To: "Tiedge, Sophia" <STiedge@gannett.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 10:01 AM

Yes. I will send you some of my communications. I am free over the weekend as well. Let me know. Otherwise, next week works.

All my best,

Hez
[Quoted text hidden]

hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>
To: "Tiedge, Sophia" <STiedge@gannett.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 10:09 AM

Sophia,

If we don't get Water Street between Wisconsin Ave and The Public Market right, we will destroy what's good for the Third Ward and Downtown which are doing well and attracting tourists. My family reunion is next week - in MKE - last year it was in Delray Beach, Florida. We have options. And we want to enjoy the downtown/third ward area.

It is more than Element, It is City Social and Brownstone as well who are located in the 500 block of Water Street.

Happy to discuss. Maybe you can break this story before the Fox News folks that keep calling me. I have been busy.

All my best,

Hez
[Quoted text hidden]

Tiedge, Sophia <STiedge@gannett.com>
To: hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 10:09 AM

Sounds good. Would you be able to chat sometime Monday morning?

From: hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 12:01 PM
To: Tiedge, Sophia <STiedge@gannett.com>
Subject: Re: Inquiry from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[Quoted text hidden]

hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>
To: "Tiedge, Sophia" <STiedge@gannett.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 10:10 AM

Sure. I will call you Monday morning.
[Quoted text hidden]

Tiedge, Sophia <STiedge@gannett.com>
To: hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 11:40 AM

Sounds great, thank you.

Sophia

From: hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 12:10 PM
To: Tiedge, Sophia <STiedge@gannett.com>
Subject: Re: Inquiry from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

[Quoted text hidden]

hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>
To: "Tiedge, Sophia" <STiedge@gannett.com>

Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 2:10 PM

Sophia,

I mentioned in other communications with the licensing committee and Alderman Bowman how MKE is on an upswing and the Third Ward and Downtown are key draws for the SMART and YOUNG looking for a great place to work and form a family. See yet another WSJ article providing great PR for MKE. We can't let nightclubs destroy that. My family will be at the KINN GuestHouse Downtown starting Thursday, bringing thousands of dollars to the Third Ward, Public Market, Water Front, Downtown and great restaurants, including my favorite - The Odd Duck. We all have an interest in making sure our Magnificent Mile (Water Street) remains safe and without shootings and death....Murder Alley should not exist in our Downtown. Close these clubs or provide them restaurant licenses only.

https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/careers/us-cities-entry-level-job-market-ab688897?mod=hp_lead_pos7

All my best,

Hezron Lopez

On Fri, Jul 18, 2025 at 9:38 AM Tiedge, Sophia <STiedge@gannett.com> wrote:
[Quoted text hidden]

From: [motiva.lopez](#)
To: [William Suber](#)
Cc: [Heron Lopez](#)
Subject: Milwaukee mayor responds to GOP lawmakers criticizing city response to violence
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:14:57 AM

<https://www.wpr.org/news/milwaukee-mayor-gop-lawmakers-violence-prevention-police>

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GUNS, JUSTICE, LAW ENFORCEMENT, NEWS

Milwaukee mayor responds to GOP lawmakers criticizing city response to violence

Mayor Cavalier Johnson says 'downtown will be safer'

BY EVAN CASEY

AUGUST 8, 2025

[Listen](#)

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson speaks during a press conference on Friday, Aug. 8, 2025. *Evan Casey/WPR*

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson is pushing back at Republican state lawmakers who say city leaders aren't doing enough to address violent crime.

Recent high-profile shootings and homicides on and near North Water Street, an area lined with popular bars and nightclubs in downtown Milwaukee, prompted police to increase the number of officers patrolling downtown. But a letter signed by 20 Republican state lawmakers said more needs to be done to stop the "ongoing chaos and violence."

"Deadly reckless driving, increased homicides, and now a proliferation of violence in the downtown area, including Water Street, have reached a breaking point," the lawmakers wrote.

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The letter asked Johnson to urge Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffrey Norman to reorganize the department to allow for the "maximum" number of officers patrolling the streets.

"This could include senior command staff and Chief Norman," the letter states. "The city of Milwaukee needs every available sworn officer out on our streets protecting our citizens and restoring law and order."

In response, Johnson said the recent bipartisan shared revenue law changed how the Milwaukee Fire and Police Commission — the civilian oversight board of those departments — operates. A Wisconsin Legislative Council memo said the law "authorizes the chiefs of the city's police and fire departments to establish policies relating to the control and management of their departments, whereas prior law authorized the commission to do so."

"So by their own action, those decisions around deployment are left to the department, are left to the chief," Johnson said during a Friday press conference.

A Milwaukee Police Department spokesperson deferred comment about the letter to Johnson's office.

Johnson also again called on the state Legislature to pass stricter gun laws to help address gun violence in Milwaukee.

"People in this city, and really around this state, our ordinary citizens, are affected by issues of gun violence, and I hear silence," Johnson said. "I hear absolute silence from the same people who signed this letter each and every single year when people in this city, ordinary citizens, innocent folks, kids, get hurt, get shot, get killed, by people who should not have their hands on guns."

A street barricade is seen here on Water Street in Milwaukee on Aug. 8, 2025. *Evan Casey/WPR*

City has plans to make downtown safer

In addition to adding more police downtown, police officials said they plan to increase curfew enforcement and have officers perform more check-ins with local businesses downtown. Friday, Johnson said other moves — like limiting food truck hours and prohibiting electric scooters downtown — will lead to fewer large gatherings where violence could occur.

"Downtown will be safer," Johnson said.

Johnson also said the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office has been assisting the police department with a mobile booking facility to help process citations and arrests quicker.

"That will help us to keep our law enforcement officers in the Milwaukee Police Department on the beat, on patrol here downtown," Johnson said.

Milwaukee Police Capt. Robert Thiel said he wouldn't "go into detail" on how many extra officers are patrolling downtown.

"We are deploying an extra amount of resources and redistributing some resources from other districts to bring downtown and other divisions as well," Thiel said. "So we are going to have an excess of officers that we typically would have at this time of year."

Alexander Ayala, president of the Milwaukee Police Association, recently told WPR the department is already "stretched thin."

Popular bars on Water Street in Milwaukee are seen here on Aug. 8, 2025. *Evan Casey/WPR*

Jake Dehne, who owns bars and restaurants in downtown Milwaukee near Water Street, believes some of the recent actions by the city are helpful. But he said more could be done.

"Have more cops ... have more lights, have more you know, restrictions," Dehne said.

Dehne said he did notice more police officers on the streets last weekend.

Subject: Re: Prevent Water Street from Becoming Murder Alley (Water Street Between Wisconsin Avenue and The Historic Third Ward Mental Area)



hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

to Matt Dörner 

Matt,

Would love to speak with you.

We have to protect the downtown area.

See this article in the WSJ - good things about our companies downtown. But if it becomes unsafe, word spreads in the HR departments and soon these companies move. We safe for living, dining and tourists.

I'm speaking with
Sent from my iPhone

On Jul 18, 2025, at 5:45 PM, Matt Dörner <mdorner@milwaukeekeedowntown.com> wrote:

Hi Hezron,

Thank you for sharing this email with me. I wanted to be sure to reply and invite a call if you would like to talk further. Please let me know.

Thank you and sincerely,

Matt Dörner

MILWAUKEE DOWNTOWN

Business Improvement District #21

CEO

301 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 106

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53203

Ph: 414.238.2243

www.milwaukeekeedowntown.com/do-business

<image002.png>

*Click [here](#) to learn more about & support
Downtown Milwaukee's first dog park!*

From: hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Sent: Saturday, July 12, 2025 11:26 AM

To: aide1@milwaukee.gov; aide2@milwaukee.gov; JoCasta.Zamarrapa@milwaukee.gov; Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov; Alex.Brower@milwaukee.gov; motiya.lopez@gmail.com; William Sulton <william@sultonlaw.com>; Milwaukee Downtown Info <info@milwaukeekeedowntown.com>; Beth Weirick <bweirick@milwaukeekeedowntown.com>; Matt Dörner <mdorner@milwaukeekeedowntown.com>; Erica Green <egreen@milwaukeekeedowntown.com>; Rachel Farina <rfarina@milwaukeekeedowntown.com>; bidadmin@mkebid2.org; jenniferk@eua.com; heathert@eua.com; gregu@eua.com; Robert J. Bauman <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>; mayor@milwaukee.gov; Lafayette



hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

The Future of the Third Ward is City Social - License Committee at 9-10am This Morning - City Hall

hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

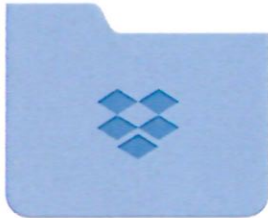
Tue, May 20, 2025 at 5:30 AM

To: vswales@gannett.com, jordyn.noennig@jrn.com, jsedit@journalsentinel.com

Vanessa,

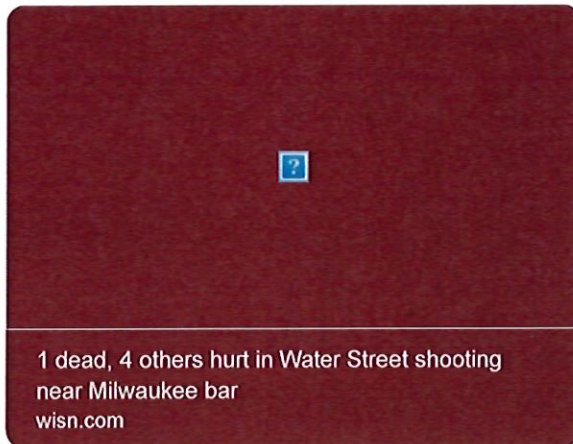
Maybe you can check out this morning's license committee meeting (9am hearing at city hall). If City Social retains their license, it will be the demise of the Third Ward and Downtown-this will be our new Northridge Mall where the perception of violence and being unsafe on Water street will harm the great things these areas have built.

You should visit the hearing. There was a deadly shooting on the block at Brownstone (which is an affiliated business of the City Social). There is fear of tenants on the block - perception becomes reality and the Third Ward is doomed and we all suffer.

Licensing Committee
dropbox.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hezron Lopez](#)
To: [Hez \(Dad\) Lopez](#)
Subject: Water Street News
Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025 9:15:25 AM
Attachments: [water-street-fatal-shooting-6872321d3332e.png](#)



Sent from my iPhone

If you wish to stop receiving marketing related materials, including newsletters, event invites, information regarding products and service offerings, promotional campaigns ("Electronic Communications") please unsubscribe by sending an email to unsubscribe@willscot.com. Please note that communications regarding your account or current business transactions, including but not limited to invoices, payment requests, collection notices, and/or courtesy reminders may still be sent electronically.



hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Article

hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>
To: Hezron Lopez <hezron.lopez@willscot.com>

Wed, Jun 18, 2025 at 11:30 AM



Shooting on the 500 block of N.
Water St. Sunday, June 15th, 2025
urbanmilwaukee.com



Milwaukee shootings Sunday; 6 wounded, 1 dead
fox6now.com

Sent from my iPhone



hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Prevent Water Street from Becoming Murder Alley (Water Street Between Wisconsin Avenue and The Historic Third Ward Mental Area)

hezron lopez <hezlopez@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 18, 2025 at 1:21 PM

To: aide1@milwaukee.gov, aide2@milwaukee.gov, JoCasta.Zamarripa@milwaukee.gov, Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov, Alex.Brower@milwaukee.gov, motiya.lopez@gmail.com, William Sulton <william@sultonlaw.com>, info@milwauekedowntown.com, bweirick@milwauekedowntown.com, mdorner@milwauekedowntown.com, egreen@milwauekedowntown.com, rfarina@milwauekedowntown.com, bidadmin@mkebid2.org, jenniferk@eua.com, heathert@eua.com, gregu@eua.com, "Robert J. Bauman" <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>, mayor@milwaukee.gov, Lafayette Crump <lafayette.crump@milwaukee.gov>, "paul@milwauekeepublicmarket.org" <paul@milwauekeepublicmarket.org>, jplaisted@historichthirdward.com, "esturkey@easttown.com" <esturkey@easttown.com>, "william.bonifas@cbre.com" <william.bonifas@cbre.com>, "jnorma@milwaukee.gov" <jnorma@milwaukee.gov>

Bcc: Hezron Lopez <hezron.lopez@willscot.com>

All,

As I mentioned during the Licensing Committee hearing against the issuance of the license for City Social NightClub on Water Street, "if MKE leaders do not get these licensees under control, we will destroy two of the best places in Milwaukee: Downtown and The Historic Third Ward." Bob B and the Licensing Committee can help our great city.

Here is the Good

We have the #1 Public Market in the country - <https://www.fox6now.com/news/milwaukee-public-market-named-nations-best-2nd-year-row>

Milwaukee has been featured in the WSJ as a top place to be in many ways (read "The Draw") - <https://www.wsj.com/real-estate/luxury-homes/milwaukee-rental-market-b0fe4ba4?>

Read this link per Google AI search "What's great about Milwaukee" - it is about the greatness of Milwaukee, which will all go away unless you manage Water Street Bars/Clubs between Wisconsin Avenue and St. Paul, at a minimum). What we don't want is for Water Street to become known as Murder Alley.

https://www.google.com/searchsca_esv=d2b9df46a597ed26&rlz=1C1GCEB_enUS1144US1144&sxsrf=AE3TifMimYNi6H8pgAgz3tYAm1ylFD6tSA:1750275355454&q=what%27s+great+about+milwaukee&spell=1&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi3vsjm2_uNAxWJIEQIHwfmlKcQBSgAegQIDxAB&biw=1280&bih=639&dpr=1.5&safe=active&ssui=on

I mentioned that Water Street is our "Magnificent Mile." I mentioned that people are coming from all over the state and adjacent states to enjoy our downtown, lakeside, third ward, public market, etc. We have so much to offer and Milwaukee is on the ascent. The city is receiving great press because of the Downtown and Third Ward areas. Mayor Johnson is doing a great job with the Downtown and Third Ward, and I am so proud of the work he is doing and it is getting noticed "Nationally."

Here is the Bad and "the ask"

But, unless we prevent violence and murders at this gateway to the greatness of Milwaukee (Water Street), all of the hard work that politicians, businesses and local residents have placed in making Milwaukee great - will be for nothing. We don't want to be known for violence in the downtown/third ward area. It will keep investment away; tourists away; and kill growth.

See the below links of the violence that is now upon this great area. If someone is killed or harmed, tourists will stay away and city leaders will be blamed. We need the Licensing Committee to help us. Will you help? We need to limit the bars/clubs that are open on this stretch of Water Street to responsible proprietors. I hope the Licensing Committee understands that only they can stop these bars/night clubs from fermenting the violence that ensues before and after a night of drinking. I ask that you limit the "night club" and "alcohol" licenses to responsible proprietors. See the violence that is upon us at the below links. What will we do to stop it? Let's prevent Water Street from becoming Murder Alley. You may see a pattern in the below - will you prevent the next violent act/murder on Water Street:

1. <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/pressrelease/shooting-on-the-500-block-of-n-water-st-sunday-june-15th-2025/>
2. <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2021/12/15/council-suspends-downtowns-elmnt-lounge-for-60-days/>
3. <https://www.cbs58.com/news/jordan-tate-found-guilty-in-fatal-brownstone-social-lounge-shooting>
4. <https://www.fox6now.com/news/third-ward-shooting-keasean-ellis-brown-sentencing>
5. <https://www.wisn.com/article/two-people-shot-multiple-times-outside-milwaukee-police-headquarters/42235127>
6. <https://www.wpr.org/justice/duty-officer-shot-milwaukees-third-ward-neighborhood>
7. <https://biztimes.com/elmnt-lounge-opens-tonight-on-water-street/>
8. <https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2021/12/22/elmnt-bar-wins-injunction-can-reopen/>

We want the Third Ward and Downtown areas safe for all.

Hezron Lopez (property owner N Water Street)

From: [motiva lopez](#)
To: william@sultonlaw.com
Cc: [Hezron Lopez](#)
Subject: GOP lawmakers call for curbing Milwaukee violence
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:21:13 AM

<https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2025/08/14/gop-lawmakers-call-for-curbing-milwaukee-violence>

‘He’s got to be willing to assert himself’: 20 Republican state lawmakers call for curbing Milwaukee violence in letter to city’s mayor

BY Anthony DaBruzzi Wisconsin

PUBLISHED 4:08 PM ET Aug. 14, 2025

PUBLISHED 4:08 PM EDT Aug. 14, 2025

MILWAUKEE — Twenty Republican state lawmakers have signed on to a letter to call on Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson to do more about violence in the downtown area, especially near Water Street, after a [surge of incidents near the famous stretch of bars](#).

The [letter from Aug. 6](#) comes in the wake of a contentious city council meeting where policing strategies were on the agenda. Additionally, the police union and the city have been at odds over contract negotiations for several years.

“They will respond with a press conference to some crisis, and what do we often hear? ‘This is unacceptable. This won’t be allowed.’ And then the cameras go off, and it’s back to business as usual.

There's no concrete plan," State Rep. Bob Donovan, R-Greenfield, who led the effort, said.

While [Donovan's letter voiced concerns about violence in the downtown area](#), the mayor's office fired back in what has become a blame game.

"We thank the state legislators for offering their opinions on police staffing. What they neglect to acknowledge is that crime in Milwaukee is down considerably when compared to the same time as last year," Jeff Fleming, who serves as director of communications for the Office of the Milwaukee Mayor, said in a statement to Spectrum News.

Fleming referred to statistics from the Milwaukee Police Department's (MPD) Mid-Year Review, which was released in July. The [report showed that many crimes have seen a double-digit drop](#).

"If the mayor really thinks that crime is down in Milwaukee, and I know the stats say that, I would urge him to walk some of the streets and alleys of some of our more challenged neighborhoods in Milwaukee," Donovan added.

The letter also called for the mayor to urge Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffrey Norman to get more sworn officers on the streets.

Fleming said that deployment strategies are entirely up to law enforcement leaders.

"State law, including changes legislators made within the last few years in Act 12, makes it clear neither the mayor's administration nor the Fire and Police Commission can direct the department to act," Fleming wrote.

"We weren't asking them to order the police chief. We understand he

can't do that," Donovan explained of his letter. "The letter reads 'urge' the police chief. Now, if the mayor of Milwaukee feels uncomfortable to sit down with the Milwaukee Police chief and urge him in one direction or another because of the concerns the mayor is hearing from residents, with all due respect, I would argue that the mayor has no business holding his high office."

Donovan, [who lost his race for mayor against Johnson in 2022](#), also called out the [lack of a labor contract with police](#).

Fleming fired back, stating that the city is interested in reaching a deal with the Milwaukee Police Association (MPA).

"The city is interested in reaching a voluntary settlement with the MPA, just as the city did months ago with the Milwaukee Police Supervisors Union and Firefighters' Local 215," Fleming explained. "With negotiations continuing with the police officers' union, union leaders have encouraged outside pressure on the city to reach a contract settlement. They have used selective and misleading statements to make their case."



State Rep. Bob Donovan, R-Greenfield, discusses the letter he sent to Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson regarding downtown violence. (Spectrum News 1/Mandy Hague)

Milwaukee Police declined to comment and referred Spectrum News to the mayor's office, as the letter was specifically addressed to him.

"They have gone for three years without a raise, without a contract, and I might add this is all during a period of high inflation, so it's important that the appropriate message be sent that yes, our local leaders support our cops and that they are not somehow second-class employees," Donovan said.

Donovan said the Assembly [Committee on Urban Revitalization](#), of

which he serves as chair, will hold a hearing in September on police staffing levels across the state, including issues with recruiting.

From: [Hez-Mo Properties](#)
To: william@sultonlaw.com
Cc: [Hezron Lopez](#)
Subject: Downtown Milwaukee shootings, mayor outlines action plan | FOX6 Milwaukee
Date: Wednesday, August 27, 2025 9:11:14 AM

How do we gain support for our case?

<https://www.fox6now.com/news/downtown-milwaukee-disorder-violence-mayor-outlines-actions-reduce>

Downtown Milwaukee shootings, mayor outlines safety plan

[Jason Calvi](#) -

Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson said he's taking steps to reduce recent late-night violence downtown.

Recent downtown violence

The backstory:

There were multiple downtown shootings last month. On July 12, two people shot near Water and Michigan died; friends and family identified one of the victims as Antwan Hogans, who also went by the name "OG Tweezy."

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A week later on July 19, police said someone shot and killed a man near Broadway and Juneau. Loved ones identified that victim as 21-year-old Raymond Wilson.

"A few rabble-rousers decide to make decisions and choices to come down here and ruin it for everyone else," said Johnson.



Addressing the violence

What they're saying:

After the violent July, Milwaukee's mayor revealed plans he hopes will keep people safe. That includes more police. How many? The Milwaukee Police Department wouldn't say.

"We are going to have an excess of officers than we typically would have this time of year," said MPD District 1 Capt. Robert Thiel.

MPD said it will bring in officers from other districts and divisions.

The [Milwaukee County](#) Sheriff's Office will also help. They're bringing in a mobile booking unit. Milwaukee police officers will still arrest and ticket offenders.

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"It'll help us to keep our law enforcement officers of the Milwaukee Police Department on the beat, on patrol here downtown, instead of transporting those after they get arrested," Johnson added.

FOX6 News got hold of public records revealing police haven't been ticketing much on Water Street between State and Knapp for loitering, kids out after curfew, noise, illegal drugs, and open alcohol. This summer through July 30, MPD issued a total of seven citations for those infractions; in the previous four summers, they issued a total of four.



"That seems awfully low to what I know of, but we are definitely stepping up enforcement," Thiel said.

The mayor's plan includes going after curfew-breakers. During the summer, the curfew is 11 p.m. for anyone under the age of 17. The mayor also said police were going to heighten enforcement of those illegally carrying weapons near schools.

Police also plan to do more spot bar checks, which means they'll pop in unannounced to bars, look around, and then depart.

The mayor's plan also includes using flashing red traffic lights in the Water Street area, along with drones observing from above.

The mayor discussed limits on food trucks. City ordinance in 2023 already stopped food trucks from operating downtown after 1 a.m.

Another step the mayor says the city is taking: limiting e-scooters from traveling on Water Street and in the downtown entertainment district after 8 p.m. In fact, for years, the scooters already de-activated in the Water Street entertainment district after 8 p.m.

"I'm championing solutions. Downtown will be safer. Downtown is, and it will be the center of our entertainment economy," said Johnson. "Downtown is and will continue to be a welcoming place for everybody who wants to come and to have fun."

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"A lot of those items probably could have been done proactively at the beginning of summer, because the incidents we've had are not new," said Milwaukee Alderman Robert Bauman. "We've had basically some level of violence and disorder for the last four summers, I would say.

"The issue boils down to the number of police personnel that are available, because if they start issuing tickets or making arrests on a broad scale, word would go out, social media will pick that up. And I think it'll be a deterrent for people to carry on that type of behavior."

The Source: The information in this post was gathered through a news conference with the mayor and MPD, along with reviewing public records, and interviewing city leaders.

Industries



By **Meredith Meyer**
Dec 27, 2018 12:00 am



The Ladybug Club is located in the Milwaukee Building at 622 N. Water St. in downtown Milwaukee.



An interior look at Elmnt Lounge in downtown Milwaukee



After a \$500,000 renovation project, the bar, located at 618 N. Water St., will reopen to the public on Dec. 27 as **Elmnt Lounge**.

The establishment differs from the previous nightclub concept, known as 618 Live on Water, with new lounge-style seating, HDTVs and a selection of bar bites, which will be available when the kitchen opens within the next few days, said Nick Murado, Elmnt's director of operations.

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Food service will allow the lounge to serve happy hour, late night bites and lunch, and to function as a venue for corporate events, he said.

Elmnt will serve "elevated small plates" such as wings, pizza and sliders, and its full bar will offer specialty cocktails and wine.

The changes come as Milwaukee's downtown area evolves, Murado said.

"We built this for the growth of the neighborhood, with new hotels, condominiums, and more millennials and young professionals," he said. "We think we can serve this greater community as a lounge rather than a nightclub."

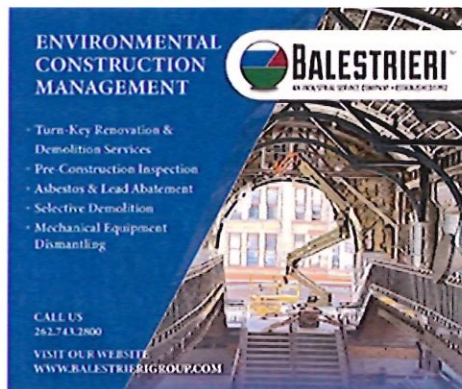


Signage is fastened to a waterfall wall fixture.

The name “Elmnt” was selected intentionally, Murado said. The new decor throughout the space echoes the elements of nature with a waterfall wall, a fireplace, a hookah lounge and “earthy tones” in the upper level. He said the concept will also offer various elements of entertainment— TVs for sporting events, a DJ booth for music, and food and beverage offerings.

Elmnt will be open to the public Thursday through Saturday nights from 9 p.m. to close, and it will launch its Friday and Saturday happy hour service, starting at 4 p.m., on Jan. 17. On Jan. 20, Elmnt will roll out the first of its “Sunday funday” events. It will also host a New Year’s Eve celebration on Dec. 31.

- Advertisement -



During summer months, Murado said, the lounge will offer patio seating and will likely operate daily.

The venue, which has long been owned and managed by Habib Manjee, once was a source of problems for the city. Its **license was suspended in 2013** because of violent incidents there.

In 2017, Manjee applied for a **license to add adult entertainment** to the venue, for the purpose of hosting entertainment for bachelor and bachelorette parties, according to a spokesperson for Elmnt.



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CBS 58 NEWS AT 4PM

CRIME

Jordan Tate found guilty in fatal Brownstone Social Lounge shooting

By: [CBS 58 Newsroom](#)

Posted: Jul 21, 2023 10:11 AM CDT



NOW: Jordan Tate found guilty in fatal

TOP STORIES



West Allis woman charged in crash that killed Marquette University students



Day 3 of civil trial for former Wauwatosa officer Joseph Mensah underway



Ascension Wisconsin warns patients of possible insurance disruption with UnitedHealthcare

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MILWAUKEE (CBS 58) – Jordan Tate has been found guilty in the [homicide of Krystal Tucker](#).

The jury returned a guilty verdict early Friday morning, July 21. Tate was charged with one count of first-degree intentional homicide and two counts of first-degree reckless injury with a dangerous weapon.

Thirty-one-year-old Tucker was shot and killed while working the door of Brownstone Social Lounge in 2022.

Prosecutors say Tate opened fire after getting into an altercation with security guards over the bar's age requirement. On the night of the shooting, you had to be at least 27 years old to enter. Tate was 25.

Two other employees, both security guards were injured in the shooting and survived.

The trial began Monday and closing arguments were held Thursday. Also on Thursday, Tate took the stand and told his side of the story, claiming the shooting was in self-defense and that he feared one of the security guards had a gun and would harm him. The jury however did not agree and convicted Tate on all charges.

Tate is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 29. Tucker's family is expected to appear at the sentencing via video conference.

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PRESS RELEASE

Shooting on the 500 block of N. Water St. Sunday, June 15th , 2025

By Milwaukee Police Department - Jun 15th, 2025 05:01 am

Milwaukee Police are investigating a shooting that occurred on Sunday, June 15th , 2025, at approximately 3:00 a.m., in the 500 block of N. Water St. The victim, a 25-year-old was conveyed to a local hospital for treatment of a non-fatal gunshot injury. The circumstances leading up to the shooting are under investigation. Milwaukee Police have an adult suspect in custody.

Anyone with any information is asked to contact Milwaukee Police at (414) 935-7360 or to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at (414) 224-Tips or P3 Tips.

NOTE: This press release was submitted to Urban Milwaukee and was not written by an Urban Milwaukee writer. While it is believed to be reliable, Urban Milwaukee does not guarantee its accuracy or completeness.

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LIFESTYLE | CAREERS

The Cities Where College Grads Are Actually Landing Jobs

Many younger professionals are finding luck launching careers in second-tier cities like Raleigh, Milwaukee and Birmingham, a new analysis shows



Raleigh, N.C., has again topped the list of cities with the most promising prospects for recent graduates in an ADP study. PHOTO: ULTIMA GAINA/ISTOCK

By [Ray A. Smith](#) [Follow](#) and [Haley Zimmerman](#) [Follow](#) | Graphics by [Jason French](#) [Follow](#)

Updated July 18, 2025 8:09 am ET

Memo to job-hunting college grads: It pays to take your search to cities just beyond America's biggest metro areas.

In one of the toughest markets for entry-level jobs in years, several second-tier cities—including Raleigh, N.C.—rise above the pack for their strong hiring, decent salaries and affordability. Instead of Atlanta or Chicago, consider Birmingham, Ala., or Milwaukee. Or think Baltimore, in lieu of Washington, D.C.

Those alternative cities, along with Austin, Texas, rank as the top five most promising locations to find work for recent college graduates, according to a [new study](#) by payroll-services provider ADP.

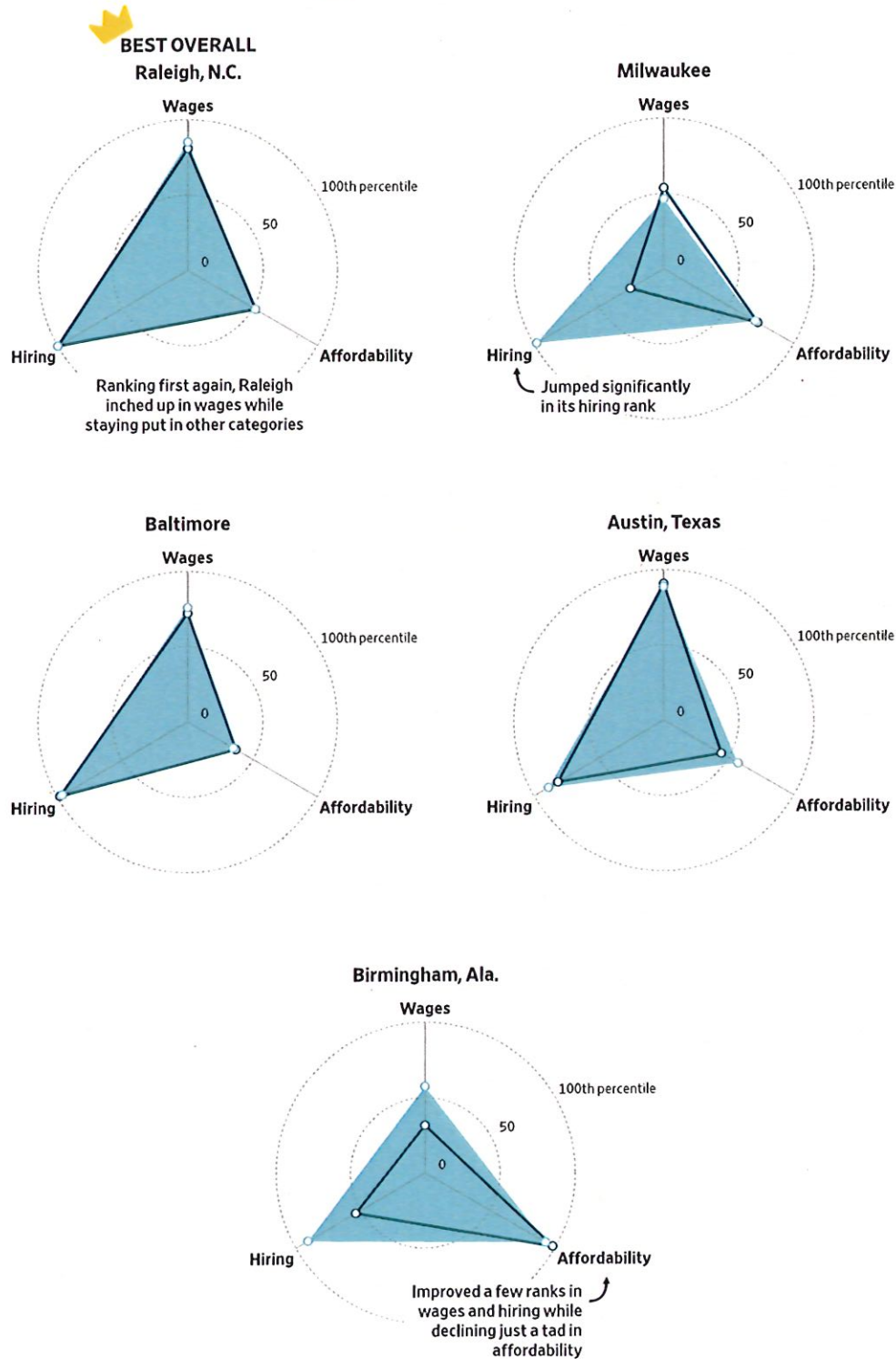
Researchers crunched public cost-of-living data and ADP payroll data for more than five million U.S. workers in their 20s to rank 55 metro areas on three metrics: affordability, wages and hiring activity. They then weighed hiring rates for jobs that typically require a degree against affordability-adjusted wages in each city to devise a single, overall ranking.

What sets the top-ranking cities apart? Raleigh, Baltimore and Austin—all of which scored in last year's top five, too—tend to have a higher-than-usual concentration of technology, health and financial firms, says Ben Hanowell, ADP Research's director of people analytics.

Like Birmingham, they are home to research and healthcare institutions that do a lot of hiring themselves. Milwaukee's job market, meanwhile, is benefiting from the expansion of [Eli Lilly](#) and other companies in the area.

Top five metro areas in the U.S. for young, college-degreed professionals

2024 2025



Note: The further a point on the triangle is from the center, the better its performance in that metric. The combined score reflects the geometric mean of each metro area's hiring rate and affordability-adjusted wages, ranked by percentile of each metro on that geometric mean. For example, Milwaukee ranks second after stacking up wages compared to the affordability of the city, even if it ranks lower in other categories.

Source: ADP

All of those factors are bright spots in an otherwise difficult job market for 20-somethings. Though the national unemployment rate hovers around 4%, it was 7.3% in June for recent college graduates. Many of them are running into a [bottleneck in entry-level openings](#) as employers [slow hiring](#) and fewer older workers switch jobs. It doesn't help that more companies are [relying on artificial intelligence](#) to do some of the grunt work new graduates often do.

"There's a lot more great people than there are great jobs," says Susan De La Vega, a senior vice president at global consulting firm [Korn Ferry](#).



Baltimore officials are trying to play up the city's appeal to young professionals. PHOTO: SHURAN HUANG FOR WSJ

Those challenges have fueled a lot of fluctuation in local job markets. Atlanta and Charlotte, N.C., both in last year's top five for young grads, dropped considerably in this year's rankings. Portland, Ore., Hartford, Conn., Riverside, Calif., and Salt Lake City all ranked toward the bottom because of slower hiring rates and lower real wages once cost of living was factored in.

Where the jobs are

Raleigh, once again, topped the list of cities with the most promising prospects for recent graduates. As part of the Research Triangle, its economy is fueled by an ecosystem of research institutions, including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University and other schools, plus science and technology companies.

"We've seen this stream of office projects over the last 18 months, and North Carolina State University and some of our private colleges are all supplying this great pipeline of workers," says Kyle Touchstone, director of Raleigh Economic Development.

Red Hat and [Cisco Systems](#) are just two companies with Raleigh operations that have stepped up their recruiting of young professionals. The Research Triangle area accounted for nearly a third of Cisco's overall university hiring, second only to Silicon Valley, over the past four fiscal years, says Scott McGuckin, vice president of talent acquisition.

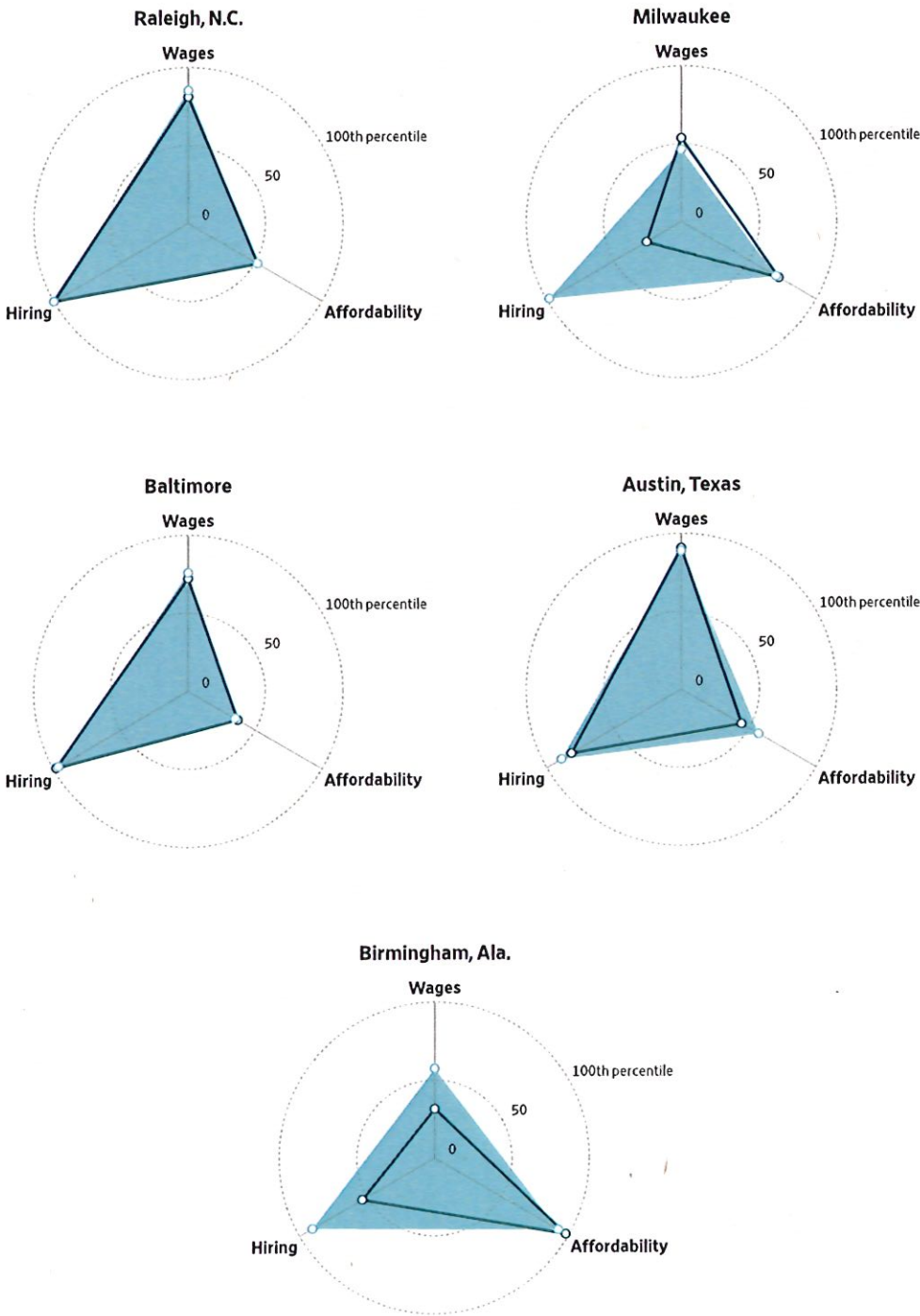
Top five metro areas for young, college-degreed professionals, by region

The further a point on the triangle is from the center, the better its performance in that metric. The combined score reflects the geometric mean of each metro area's hiring rate and affordability-adjusted wages, ranked by percentile of each metro on that geometric mean.

- ALL
- NORTHEAST
- MIDWEST
- WEST
- SOUTH

2024

2025



Source: ADP

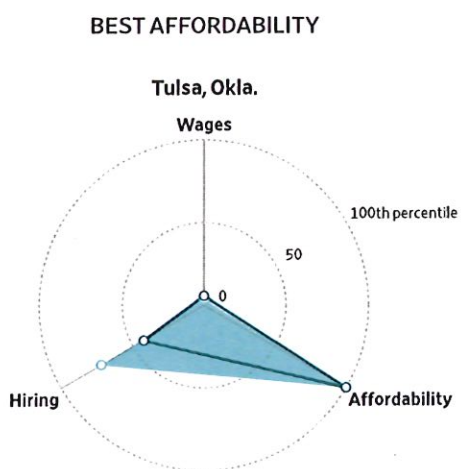
Jordin Young, who graduated from Bowdoin College in Maine in 2024, says he knew just one person who lived in Raleigh before moving there for an associate job at Fidelity last year.

“I knew I wanted to explore a new city,” says Young, who grew up in Maryland. He was pleasantly surprised by how Raleigh stacked up against New York, Chicago and the other bigger cities his peers were flocking to. It is more affordable and offers an active social scene and easy access to hiking in state parks, he says.

Milwaukee, which ranked second, is benefiting from investment from a number of major companies in the area, as well as a burgeoning startup scene. In December, Eli Lilly announced a \$3 billion manufacturing expansion in nearby Kenosha County that will include 750 highly skilled jobs. Northwestern Mutual and Milwaukee Tool have recently expanded their footprints in the area as well.

The city’s affordability compared with Chicago is a draw for both young professionals and companies looking to hire, according to the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

Northwestern Mutual has longstanding partnerships with Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to tap students for potential jobs. The insurance and wealth-management firm also works with nonprofits to help recruit promising, limited-income college students “we might not otherwise know,” says Kelly Culler, the company’s chief people officer.



Note: The further a point on the triangle is from the center, the better its performance in that metric. The combined score reflects the geometric mean of each metro area's hiring rate and affordability-adjusted wages, ranked by percentile of each metro on that geometric mean.
 Source: ADP

Nothing like 'The Wire'

Baltimore officials, too, are trying to play up their city's appeal to younger professionals. In March, the Greater Baltimore Committee launched a campaign to promote the metro area's affordability compared with cities like Philadelphia and its dining scene, parks and museums.

Among employers, [Morgan Stanley](#) cites the area's higher-education programs and talent market as reasons why the bank's Baltimore office has grown into one of its largest in North America outside New York.



Markeisa Graham landed a job in Baltimore shortly after graduating from college. PHOTO: MARKEISA GRAHAM

Baltimore wasn't on Markeisa Graham's radar before she graduated from Florida A&M in Tallahassee in 2021. What little she knew about the city came mostly from watching "The Wire" and the show's exploration of Baltimore's criminal drug trade.

But after applying to jobs around the country, she landed a job there that fall as a software engineer at [Lockheed Martin](#). She was impressed by the friendliness of the people and how walkable the city is. "I was like, 'This is nothing like 'The Wire' at all,'" she says.

Austin, on the other hand, has been a destination for college-educated 20-somethings for years. Hiring remains strong thanks to the expansion of semiconductors, clean tech, AI and other tech industries, according to Austin's chamber of commerce.

Though housing costs remain an issue, rents have declined nearly 3% from last year, and the city council has committed to building more affordable housing, says

Eric Hale, director of education and workforce policy at the Austin Chamber.

Birmingham is also winning over young professionals. Companies in healthcare, finance and technology are big employers, as is the University of Alabama at Birmingham and its medical center.



Aaron Gill settled in Birmingham, Ala., after college and says he can see himself living there long term. PHOTO: AARON GILL

Aaron Gill, 22, originally planned to return to Atlanta, his hometown, once he earned his computer science degree from Samford University in Homewood, Ala. But after graduating in May, he landed a job in Birmingham as a junior quality-assurance analyst at [Vulcan Materials](#), a supplier of gravel, asphalt and other construction materials.

Birmingham's slower pace took some getting used to, he says, but he has come to appreciate living in a smaller, less congested city. And he has noticed a lot of out-of-state license plates in his company parking lot, which suggests to him that more young professionals are also moving there for work.

"More and more I can see myself living in Birmingham" for the long term, he says.

Write to Ray A. Smith at Ray.Smith@wsj.com and Haley Zimmerman at haley.zimmerman@wsj.com

Appeared in the July 19, 2025, print edition as 'The Best Cities for New Grads'.