
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Council President Urges Citizen Participation In Budget Process

Mayor's Budget Address Tomorrow, Deliberations Set to Get Underway

As attention at City Hall turns to deliberations on the city's annual budget, Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. is urging Milwaukee residents to stay informed and offer input during the budget process.

The proposed 2006 city budget, to be presented to the Common Council tomorrow morning by Mayor Tom Barrett (**Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2005 at 9 a.m. in the Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**), is expected to present several difficult choices for Council members, who by law are charged with the duty of reviewing and analyzing the Mayor's proposed budget for the city. Under state law the Council must adopt a final budget by November 14.

Council President Hines said the Common Council will be working diligently "to ensure quality services are provided to residents of Milwaukee at a nominal cost." "What residents should know, however, is that such service delivery can be provided only after making some difficult choices presented by rising costs in health care, a freeze in state shared revenue, a 2% cap on property levy increases mandated by the state legislature, and rising energy costs, just to name a few," President Hines said.

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City Budget Deliberations To Begin/ADD ONE

The Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, under the chairmanship of Ald. Michael J. Murphy, will receive the budget and spend many hours reading, assessing, and analyzing what has been proposed. Ald. Murphy has said he also recognizes the importance of public involvement and scrutiny of the Council's budget process and its options.

The Finance and Personnel Committee will hold several hearings to discuss, in depth, details associated with the 2006 proposed budget. President Hines said the committee, and the Council as a whole, may embrace many of the ideas proposed by the Mayor while amending and seeking other areas of improvement.

"Although the Council has already taken action to identify revenue sources, these actions can be further amended as we go through the budgetary process," said President Hines. "This process includes multiple committee meetings, citizen input, and extensive dialogue with various department heads and union representatives."

Now is the time for citizens to get involved, President Hines said. "I urge citizens to contact Council members to share thoughts and concerns regarding the 2006 proposed budget," said President Hines. "It is important that you weigh in and actively participate in this process."

All Finance and Personnel Committee meetings are carried live on City Channel 25 on Time Warner Cable in the City of Milwaukee (these meetings are also taped for re-broadcast). These deliberations are scheduled to begin October 5 and run through October 25. Also, some council members will be scheduling public meetings in their districts to gather public comments on the proposed budget.

For more information on dates and times of specific Council hearings and meetings on the budget, please call Terry MacDonald at (414) 286-2233.

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