



# MEMORANDUM

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## LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

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**To:** Ald. Terry L. Witkowski  
**CC:** Jim Owczarski, City Clerk  
**From:** Dana J. Zelazny, Legislative Reference Bureau  
**Date:** September 20, 2016  
**Subject:** EXISTING CITY EFFORTS TO ADDRESS PROBLEMS IN THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY

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This memo is in response to your request of September 19, 2016, regarding existing City efforts to address problems in the African American community.

### **All Things in Common**

This Common Council initiative promotes community resource hubs that provide direct services, like group-based mentoring, driver's license recovery, child support mediation and referrals to City services and in-kind resources. The community resource hubs are faith-based organizations; 11 of the 13 are located in the City's north- and west-sides.

### **Artistic Board-up Neighborhood Revitalization Program**

This program involves painting boards on vacant buildings in order to improve the structure's appearance as well as to engage residents, community organizers, and local artists as part of the creative process. This program is active in the Amani, Metcalfe Park, Sherman Park, Washington Park and Thurston Woods neighborhoods.

### **Black Male Achievement Advisory Council**

The Black Male Achievement Advisory Council (BMAAC) was created and empowered by the Common Council and Mayor to lead the City's efforts to advance black male achievement through the collective input and efforts of dedicated community stakeholders. The BMAAC coordinates the Milwaukee Black Male Achievement initiative, which aims to create hope and opportunities for black men and boys who are significantly marginalized from economic, social, education and political life, and makes recommendations relating to the Milwaukee My Brother's Keeper Challenge.

### **Bronzeville Redevelopment Plan**

The Bronzeville Redevelopment Plan sets out to create economic development in a predominantly African-American neighborhood in a way that recaptures the enthusiasm and reverence of the original Bronzeville District. To encourage redevelopment in the area, the City is offering financial incentives to owners of homes in the Bronzeville neighborhood, as well as those interested in moving in the District. Revitalization of Bronzeville's key commercial corridor (along North Avenue between Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and 7th Street) includes public improvements, such as new roads and streetscaping, private development of vacant land and

rehabilitation of some of the existing commercial buildings. The goals are to create a visual identity for the Bronzeville District, and to attract new businesses and customers to the area.

### **Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**

This program provides money to abate lead-based paint hazards in windows for eligible property owners. Different funding sources may be used depending on the property's location; HUD grant funding is available for properties located in targeted ZIP codes on the City's north- and west-sides, and has recently expanded to 2 ZIP codes on the near south-side.

### **City of Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission**

The Equal Right Commission meets quarterly to monitor the City's employment, contracting and program activities, and prepares and provides timely reports to the Mayor and Common Council on efforts to promote equal rights, equal opportunities, positive community relations, and works to eliminate discrimination and inequities in City government and the City.

### **I Have a Dream Milwaukee**

I Have a Dream Milwaukee was launched in 2008 by Mayor Barrett at Clarke Street School and has garnered investments to guarantee every participant college tuition support and access to comprehensive, year-round tutoring, mentoring and other social support services until he or she completes college. Ninety-seven percent of the 57 current Milwaukee Dreamers are African American.

### **Mayor's Manufacturing Partnership**

The Mayor's Manufacturing Partnership is a collaboration between the City of Milwaukee and WRTP/Big Step, the Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board, MATC and regional manufacturers to develop employer-driven training to bridge the divide between jobseekers and available manufacturing jobs. The initiative complements Mayor Barrett's plans for Century City development and is one of the most successful efforts in providing a solution-track for dealing with high rates of African American male unemployment.

### **Men's Health Center**

The Health Department operates the Men's Health Center weekly to provide health checks, service needs assessments, smoking cessation information, guidance and assistance to enroll in state health benefits programs and referrals to community partners for drug and alcohol counseling, housing assistance, job information, fatherhood programs and other services aimed at helping men. This program is available to all Milwaukee men ages 14 and older, but the majority of clients are African American.

### **Milwaukee Choice Neighborhood**

On September 28, 2015, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the City of Milwaukee and Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee (HACM) a \$30 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation grant to support a locally-driven, comprehensive strategy to transform Westlawn public housing and the surrounding neighborhood into an

inclusive community of opportunity with quality housing, schools, businesses, services, and amenities where people want to live, learn, work, shop, and play.

### **Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative**

The Milwaukee Fatherhood Initiative connects men to education, employment, child support, driver's license recovery, men's health services and more. Mayor Barrett is sponsoring the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Fatherhood Summit in Oct. 2016.

### **Milwaukee My Brother's Keeper**

President Obama launched the My Brother's Keeper initiative as an inter-agency effort to measurably improve the expected educational and life outcomes for and address the persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color. The My Brother's Keeper initiative encourages communities to implement a coherent cradle-to-college-and-career strategy for improving the life outcomes of all young people to ensure that they can reach their full potential, regardless of who they are, where they come from, or the circumstances into which they are born. Milwaukee accepted the challenge in 2014, hosted a local action summit in 2015 and the Common Council adopted a resolution approving the Milwaukee My Brother's Keeper Action Plan in April 2016.

### **Milwaukee Promise Zone Initiative**

The Milwaukee Promise initiative is a multifaceted City effort to address systemic poverty, joblessness, poor health, crime and low educational achievement in City neighborhoods. The Common Council allocated \$300,000 in CDBG funding to address conditions in four city "Promise Zones" where combined, more than 45% of households make less than \$25,000 annually (compared to 36% citywide and 22% statewide), the median household income is less than \$26,000 (compared to nearly \$36,000 citywide and over \$52,000 statewide), and where in some areas more than 56% of the total population and more than 71% of children live in poverty. Three of the Promise Zones are in the City's north- and west-sides, and one is in the City's near south-side.

### **MKE Peace Project**

This Common Council program challenged youth in the central city to come up with what they felt were the factors contributing to violence in their neighborhoods, and to brainstorm and present their solutions to these problems. The winning ideas and final MKE Peace Project report were published in 2015.

### **Neighborhood Improvement Project**

This program assists eligible owner-occupants in repairing their homes. All repairs are based upon municipal building code violations, lead hazard reduction, health and safety concerns. Repairs are funded by the Community Development Grants Association and properties must be located within one of the City's 18 Neighborhood Strategic Planning (NSP) areas (the current Community Development Block Grant area). The NSP areas are located in the City's north- and west-sides.

**Nurse-Family Partnership**

The Nurse-Family Partnership is a nurse home-visiting program that improves the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children. The program was initially limited to residents of certain ZIP codes; currently, through expanded funding, the program is free and eligible for women city-wide who meet low-income requirements.

**Summer Youth Internship Program**

The Summer Youth Internship Program component of EARN & LEARN is a work opportunity where youth are assigned to various work assignments in departments within city government. Youth living in designated CDBG areas between the ages of 16-19 are eligible.

**Well Woman-WISEWOMAN**

The Well Woman program provides preventive health screening services to low-income women who are uninsured or underinsured. WISEWOMAN provides cardiovascular risk factor screening services. These programs are open to all women who meet age and income guidelines, but are targeted towards African American women.

If you have any other question related to this matter, please let me know.

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