



**Willie L. Hines, Jr.**  
*City of Milwaukee Common Council*

---

**For Immediate Release:  
September 24, 2008**

**Contact: Bill Arnold  
286-3285**

## **Common Council Members Will Hear From Residents on Mayor's Budget**

*Council President Hines Commits to Preserving Public Safety*

Today, Mayor Tom Barrett announced two proposed City of Milwaukee budgets for 2009 – his preferred budget, which includes a costly solid waste fee increase, and his actual budget, which cuts police services and eliminates libraries.

Obviously, these are financially tough times for Milwaukee, as Mayor Barrett clearly illustrated in his remarks. Though our city is growing and attracting investment, we still face many challenges, especially in terms of shrinking revenue for city services. Our state and federal funding has been cut year after year. The needs of our residents are actually increasing as our resources are decreasing.

“The City of Milwaukee is at a crossroads,” says Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. “We need to take a serious look at how we serve our residents – from top to bottom – and ensure that citizens are getting what they pay for. I am confident that the Common Council and the Finance and Personnel Committee will work diligently to preserve public safety and other essential services. But first, we need to hear from residents.”

In addition to the joint public hearing on the budget at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall on Monday, October 20, residents will also have opportunities to testify at four budget listening sessions, which will be hosted by Common Council members in neighborhoods throughout the city. President Hines and local aldermen will be in attendance for each listening session. **Each listening session will go from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.** The dates and locations are as follows:

- **Wednesday, October 1: Washington Park Senior Center, 4420 W. Vliet St.**
- **Monday, October 6: Pulaski High School, 2500 W. Oklahoma Ave.**
- **Wednesday, October 8: Destiny Youth Plaza, 7210 N. 76th St.**
- **Monday, October 27: Riverside University High School, 1615 E. Locust St.**