#### COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

VICE CHAIR Licenses Committee

MEMBER Finance & Personnel Committee



# MILELE A. COGGS

6th District Alderwoman

August 27, 2009

Dear Secretary Morgan,

I am writing this letter in objection to the proposed new Department of Health Services (DHS) site located at 2151 N. Dr. Martin Luther King (MLK) Drive within the 6th Aldermanic District which I represent. On Tuesday, July 7, 2009, myself and representatives from Milwankee's Department of City Development (DCD) met with Mike Coakley, the owner of the Martin Luther King Dr. building, and he presented his proposal for the MLK site. At that time we expressed concerns and I voiced my objection to this location, Mr. Coakley stated then that he would not move forward without city support.

The next day I attended a Martin Luther King Dr. Business Improvement District (BID) meeting at which Mr. Coakley presented his site proposal and I witnessed the MLK BID Board vote to object to this proposal as well. On Tuesday, August 25, 2009, I received an email from Jason Carlisle of the Administration Office of Division of Health Care Access & Accountability informing me that 2151 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive was the preferred location for DHS and would be pursued. I do not believe that 2151 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Drive is an appropriate site for the following reasons:

#### 1. Inadequate parking.

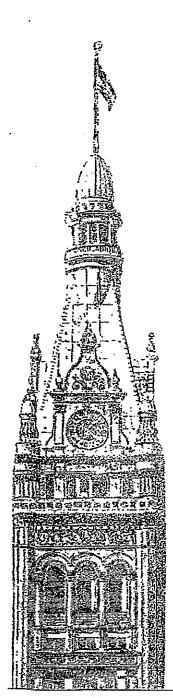
The Bronzeville parking study shows a deficiency in parking in this area currently. With the additional staff and clients that DHS will bring and the lack of existing parking, parking in this area will be compromised even more coupled with the fact that road construction is scheduled for 2010 and 2011 for MLK Drive.

## 2. Disruption to adjacent neighborhoods.

2151 N. MLK Dr. falls primarily in between three neighborhoods Halyard Park, Brewers Hill and Harambee all of which I have received calls from, had conversations with and received emails from objecting to this site. My concern is the disruption that the increase of traffic and congestion would cause to these neighborhoods.

### Strain on Police District 5 resources.

This area is within Police District 5 which currently faces many challenges in fighting crime in the area and has had recent increases in violent crimes. Given that from January 1, 2009, until August 26, 2009, there have been approximately 162 calls for police services at the current DHS location I can not help but to be deeply concerned about the impact that this site will have on police services and their ability to



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adequately serve the rest of the district given the police services this building will require.

### 4. Development.

The City of Milwaukee has invested millions of dollars to spur development in the MLK Dr. and Bronzville (The African-American Arts, Culture, & Entertainment District) areas both residentially and commercially, in part through the creation of a Tax Incremental Neighborhood (TIN), Tax Incremental District (TID) and MLK Dr. becoming a Main Street. The impact of DHS usage for this location (i.e., parking depletion, traffic congestion, increased calls for police services, etc.) will likely make it difficult for the success of the desired future development in the area.

### 5. Inconsistent with the Strategic Plan.

Additionally, the city has set forth a Northeast Side Area Plan which details future plans for the area and DHS usage for this location is not consistent with the strategic plan.

For the above stated reasons I am not in support of 2151 N. MLK Dr. being used for DHS. Though I appreciate and understand the state's awesome responsibility to provide vital services to residents of the City of Milwaukee, I do not believe this location is the best site for those services.

If there is any additional information that you would need from me (i.e. parking studies, contact information for neighborhood groups or the MLK BID, etc) please feel to contact me at (414) 286-2994.

Additionally, please make this letter an official record for any hearings or committee review for this issue.

Thank you for your immediate attention.

Milele A. Coggs

Peace, Love, & Justice,

Milele A. Coggs, J.D. 6<sup>th</sup> District Alderwoman

City of Milwaukee

Cc: Governor Jim Doyle

Deputy Secretary Mark Thomas

Mayor Tom Barrett

Commissioner Rocky Marcoux

Senator Spencer Coggs

Representative Leon D. Young

County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.