



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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TO: City of Milwaukee
Common Council FROM: JERRY ANN HAMILTON PRESIDENT

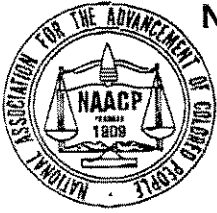
FAX: 286-3456 DATE: 7-22-05

PHONE: _____ PAGES: 3

RE: Fire & Police Commission

URGENT REVIEW PLEASE COMMENT PLEASE REPLY

COMMENTS: _____



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July 22, 2005

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Common Council President
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Alderman Willie Wade
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200 East Wells
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3570

RE: NAACP Opposition to Reappointment of Leonard Sobczak to the Fire and Police Commission

Dear City of Milwaukee Aldermen:

The NAACP opposes the reappointment of Vice Chairman Leonard Sobczak to the Fire and Police Commission until such time as the public has had time to adequately study the appropriateness of his reappointment. The NAACP requests that the City of Milwaukee hold several public hearings for the public to give its input, and for Mr. Sobczak to be given an opportunity to defend his record.

The NAACP questions Mr. Sobczak's role in the reinstatement of Police Officer Robert Henry. Police Officer Robert Henry boasted after manhandling an inmate. He was fired by Police Chief Arthur Jones. Sobczak and other members of the Fire and Police Commission reinstated Henry.

The NAACP also questions whether it's appropriate for Sobczak to encourage secrecy among commission members. Sobczak recently failed to reveal how he voted during a promotion appeal involving a high ranking fire official. The Fire and Police Commission is supposed to be responsive to the public. Sobczak defiantly denied the public important information. City Attorney Grant Langley opined that there was little, if any, reason to withhold this information from the public.

The Fire and Police Commission is responsible for oversight of the Police Department. Homicides are up more than 50% over the same period last year and police/community relations are at a modern-day low. Any decision to maintain the status quo should be thoroughly scrutinized. We urge the Common Council to hold public hearings to solicit public input and give Sobczak an opportunity to defend his record before voting on his reappointment.

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,



Jerry Ann Hamilton
President