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October 21, 2009

Ald. Milele A. Coggs  
(414) 286-2994

## Coakley Withdraws Plan to Relocate DHS Facility to Bronzeville Area

*Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs Praises Decision and Calls it a Victory for  
Neighbors and Businesses*

C.H. Coakley & Co. has formally withdrawn its bid to relocate the state Department of Health Services center into the 6<sup>th</sup> District, from 1220 W. Vliet St. to 2151 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Dr., Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs said today.

In a letter issued Tuesday to state Department of Administration Secretary Michael Morgan, C.H. Coakley & Co. partner Michael Coakley said the proposal to relocate the DHS facility was being withdrawn because of “local concerns.”

“As local concerns have been voiced regarding the state's plan to relocate the Marcia P. Coggs Human Services Center from its current location to N. King Drive, C.H. Coakley believes that it would be best at this time to request that our proposal for the above-referenced project be withdrawn. We do so out of respect for the local public officials who have done their best to reflect the wishes of their constituents,” the letter stated.

Alderwoman Coggs, who opposed the project after holding meetings with neighbors and business owners after the proposal was announced, praised the decision to end the bid. “C.H. Coakley & Co. and its partners made a significant investment in moving the relocation proposal forward, and the decision to withdraw was a very difficult one, I’m sure,” she said.

**-More-**

## **DHS Relocation Proposal Ends/ADD ONE**

“But in the end it was the right decision, and I give credit to C.H. Coakley & Co. for doing the right thing. Although the withdrawal is a ‘win’ for Bronzeville, the Historic King Drive BID, community groups, and the city, it’s truly a huge victory for neighbors who stood firm and stayed engaged during the public process,” Alderwoman Coggs said.

On October 13 the Common Council voted 15-0 in opposition to the relocation proposal.

Alderwoman Coggs said the proposal to relocate the public assistance offices to the Bronzeville area conflicted with the vision for the emerging Bronzeville cultural and commercial district currently being developed, as described in the Milwaukee Northeast Side Comprehensive Plan and the Bronzeville Redevelopment Plan. “The city’s investments in redevelopment of the Bronzeville area, including the establishment of the Historic King Drive Business Improvement District, the Bronzeville Target Investment District, the Brooks Targeted Investment Neighborhood and the Historic King Drive Main Street are significant, and putting the DHS services center there clearly wasn’t a good fit,” she said.