
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

July 31, 2008

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
(414) 286-3787

Council Action Creates Initiative With Antwone Fisher In Mind

Ald. Joe Davis Says \$100,000 Intended for Young People Leaving Foster Care System

The Common Council yesterday approved allocating \$100,000 to a new program created with Antwone Fisher, a product of America's foster care system, in mind.

Dr. Antwone Fisher (played in the film that bears his name by actor Denzel Washington) **will speak at 8 p.m. tonight** (Thursday, July 31) during a special dinner for the New Horizon Center, Inc. at the Potawatomi Pavilion at the Maier Festival Park.

Media coverage of his speech is welcome (please ask for Ms. Olivia El Amin when entering grounds).

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr., chair of the Council's Community and Economic Development Committee and author of the amendment that created the initiative, said he authored the measure with the intent that \$100,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding be made available in 2009 for job placement and career training for young people who are "aging out" of the foster care system.

"I am pleased the Council approved the allocation plan and recognizes the importance of offering a hand up to young people who choose to find work and a career at that critical juncture when they turn 18," said Ald. Davis, who was inspired by Fisher's path to success despite adversity.

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Antwone Fisher Inspires Initiative/ADD ONE

“Having opportunities made available to them at that time can help steer them away from crime, drugs and alcohol, or from becoming a teen parent,” said Ald. Davis, an advocate for foster care improvements and efforts to help older foster children who may be at risk.

Dr. Fisher was born in prison and became a ward of the state. The 2002 film – based on Fisher’s award-winning “Finding Fish” book and screenplay – details his tumultuous life growing up in foster care in Cleveland and his time in the U.S. Navy.

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