
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

March 15, 2021

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

MEDIA ALERT

Council members urge Mayor to include Office of Equity and Inclusion in stimulus allocation planning

In a jointly signed letter sent today (**attached**) to Mayor Tom Barrett, **all 15 members of the Milwaukee Common Council** urged the Mayor to heavily weight equity and inclusion when considering proposals on how to allocate funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The letter emphasizes how the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored inequities that exist throughout society, and implores the Mayor to utilize the newly created Office of Equity and Inclusion in the planning process for expending stimulus money. The letter was spearheaded by **Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs** (who also was the primary sponsor of the ordinance establishing the Office of Equity and Inclusion) and in part states: “We join with you in your praise for the recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). This legislation represents a significant step towards meeting the needs of those who have suffered so much during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as the incidence of the disease is on the decrease and vaccination continues to rise, the ARPA is another sign of hope.”

In addressing inequities the letter continues: “These past months, however, have made evident the painful inequities that exist in our society in education, employment, housing, food supply and health care. During the very worst of the pandemic, those without access to traditional health care, those without stable employment, and those without the technology to take advantage of remote education, all proved to be the most vulnerable to the effects of the virus. And these same people will likely be those who take the longest to recover once our society reopens.”

-More-

Letter to Mayor/ADD ONE

The letter concludes with a suggestion to utilize the Office of Equity and Inclusion. “As you begin to formulate your recommendations for the use of these funds, we strongly urge you to involve the Office of Equity and Inclusion at the earliest possible point and to view every proposal put forward through a lens of equity and inclusion. Those of us who serve on the Finance and Personnel Committee and all of us on the Common Council will be watching to make certain that this is done.”

During the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Finance and Personnel Committee at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, March 17, the committee will hear file #201526 - Communication from the Department of Administration - Budget and Management Division relating to the receipt and distribution of federal coronavirus relief funds. The file is sponsored by Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderman Michael J. Murphy and Alderman Cavalier Johnson. The meeting will be televised live on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.

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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

March 15, 2021

The Honorable,
Mayor Tom Barrett
City Hall

Dear Mayor Barrett:

We join with you in your praise for the recent passage of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). This legislation represents a significant step towards meeting the needs of those who have suffered so much during the COVID-19 pandemic. Even as the incidence of the disease is on the decrease and vaccination continues to rise, the ARPA is another sign of hope.

These past months, however, have made evident the painful inequities that exist in our society in education, employment, housing, food supply and health care. During the very worst of the pandemic, those without access to traditional health care, those without stable employment, and those without the technology to take advantage of remote education, all proved to be the most vulnerable to the effects of the virus. And these same people will likely be those who take the longest to recover once our society reopens.

Last year's CARES Act was passed near one of the peaks of the pandemic and there was little time to deliberate the highest and best use of these resources. It was also passed before the City created an Office of Equity and Inclusion. Matters must be different now. The opportunity afforded by the ARPA must not be lost. As you begin to formulate your recommendations for the use of these funds, we strongly urge you to involve the Office of Equity and Inclusion at the earliest possible point and to view every proposal put forward through a lens of equity and inclusion. Those of us who serve on the Finance and Personnel Committee and all of us on the Common Council will be watching to make certain that this is done.

We look forward to working collaboratively with you and your administration to ensure the ARPA is remembered as a challenge met rather than an opportunity lost.

Sincerely,



Milele A. Coggs
Alderman, 6th District



Ashanti Hamilton
Alderman, 1st District



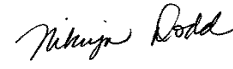
Cavalier Johnson
Alderman, 2nd District



Nik Kovac
Alderman, 3rd District



Robert J. Bauman
Alderman, 4th District



Nikiya Dodd
Alderman, 5th District



Khalif J. Rainey
Alderman, 7th District



JoCasta Zamarripa
Alderman, 8th District



Chantia Lewis
Alderman, 9th District



Michael J. Murphy
Alderman, 10th District



Mark A. Borkowski
Alderman, 11th District



José G. Pérez
Alderman, 12th District



Scott P. Spiker
Alderman, 13th District



Marina Dimitrijevic
Alderman, 14th District



Russell W. Stamper, II
Alderman, 15th District