

## **COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **VICE CHAIR**

- Finance and Personnel Committee

### **MEMBER**

- Licenses Committee
- Public Safety and Health Committee
- Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- National League of Cities Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee
- National League of Cities Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
- Milwaukee Continuum of Care
- Ethics Advisory Committee – Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
- City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Task Force



**CHANTIA LEWIS**  
ALDERWOMAN, 9TH DISTRICT

# **Quick action needed to address COVID-19 outbreaks tearing through long-term care facilities, low-income communities**

## **Statement of Alderwoman Chantia Lewis April 20, 2020**

I have asked State and City agencies to as quickly as possible help address a severe coronavirus (COVID-19) cluster outbreak on the far northwest side that is among the largest in the metro area. Sadly, the outbreak is centered at a handful of senior long-term care facilities.

Additionally, I am also asking for State and City action to quickly address serious coronavirus outbreaks in high cluster low-income areas on the north and northwest sides, and across the entire City of Milwaukee.

During the past 24 hours the far northwest side has been filled with ambulance and med unit sirens, responding to patients at these facilities who have been sickened by the coronavirus. According to city officials, just one of the facilities has had 24 emergency medical calls for service during the past 24 hours (10 for advanced life support, nine for basic life support and five for private ambulance service).

I have asked for testing to be implemented so that outbreaks can be controlled or stopped as soon as is possible. I am told testing may be difficult to initiate, and another challenge will be navigating the state's regulations concerning the long-term care facilities which often supersede the authority of local health agencies.

It is heartbreaking to know that these vulnerable facility residents and those living in communities with glaring health disparities are in grave danger. I pray that working with State and City partners we can stop the spread quickly and (hopefully) save as many lives as possible.

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