



May 1, 2008

**Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.
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Ald. Davis Honors Sister City Agreement With Council Resolution

Ald. Joe Davis, Sr. of the 2nd Aldermanic District is commemorating today's signing of a Sister City agreement between Milwaukee and uMhlathuze, South Africa by offering a resolution that asks Milwaukee's Common Council to support U.S. House Bill H.R. 5690. The bill calls for a lifting of travel restrictions to the U.S. placed on past and present members of the African National Congress (ANC) party of South Africa. The party was once labeled a terrorist organization during its struggle against the injustices of Apartheid, but has since come to represent changes in the South African political landscape. Two of the most recent presidents of South Africa, Nelson Mandela and Thabo Mbeki, have been members and high-ranking officials in the ANC. Ald. Davis said, "For diplomacy to occur, we must recognize the proactive deeds of those who have put their life on the line for freedom."

"Today's celebration honors the progress the people of South Africa have made in reshaping their country's politics and possibilities, but to truly celebrate their freedoms, we must also move forward and do our part to recognize their efforts," Ald. Davis said.

The resolution is also proposed in relation to yesterday's USA Today article that explains Nobel Prize winner Nelson Mandela is currently flagged on the U.S. terrorist watch list.

Ald. Davis said, "It is shameful that such an icon of freedom is restricted from travel in the U.S. I'm glad there is federal legislation pending that lifts the ban on ANC members' travel, but moreover, I'm proud that Milwaukee can be proactive and support this legislation and push for support of the ANC's future, not its past."

The resolution will appear before the Council at its next meeting, May 20, 2008.