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Tillman Played Hooky and Let Other Aldermen Decide How the City's Money is Spent

Ald. Dorothy Tillman Missed 79 Finance Committee Meetings in the Last Four Years

Third Ward Alderman Dorothy Tillman is a member of the powerful Finance Committee, the City Council's most important committee, but she almost never attends committee meetings according to Mell Monroe who is challenging Tillman in the Feb. 27th Municipal Election.

"Attendance records I received from Committee Chairman Edward M. Burke's office show that Dorothy Tillman has only attended 16 of the Committee's 95 meetings since the current Council was sworn in four years ago," Monroe said.

"Alderman Tillman failed to attend 83 per cent of the Finance Committee meetings and failed to represent the residents of the Third Ward when the most important City business was being discussed," Monroe said. "Despite that record of laziness, Dorothy Tillman voted at least three times to give herself a pay raise.

"Alderman Tillman is paid \$98,125 per year to represent the people of the Third Ward. Her outrageous attendance record is a clear indication that she is not doing her job and not earning her pay and that she needs to be replaced," Monroe added.

"Tillman's record of Finance Committee absences is another example of her irresponsible handling of taxpayers' money," Monroe said. "As I reported earlier in the campaign, Tillman:

- Misspent \$300,000 of the ward's transportation improvement money on four statues and lighting adjacent to a building she owns and a café and cultural center run by her daughter;
- Failed to use more than \$800,000 of the ward's infrastructure funds that should have been used to repair streets, sidewalks, alleys and traffic signals;
- Rejected the proposed \$135 million Kroc Recreation Center that would have provided much needed recreation opportunities for our youth, families and seniors; and
- Allowed her daughter, who is the executive director of the Howard Washington Cultural Center, to run up a deficit of more than \$500,000 for the 2004-05 fiscal year.

(more)

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The Committee on Finance has jurisdiction over financing of municipal services and capital developments and over all personnel matters relating to City Government. It considers and votes on tax levies, industrial revenue bonds, general obligation bonds and revenue bond programs, revenue orders, ordinances and resolutions, and matters generally affecting the Department on Finance, the City Comptroller, City Treasurer and Department of Revenue; and the solicitation of funds for charitable or other purposes on the streets and other public places.

The Committee also has jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the audit and review of expenditures of funds appropriated by the Council or under the custody of the City Treasurer, all claims under the Illinois Workmen's Compensation Act, the condominium refuse rebate program and all other pecuniary claims against the City or against funds over the custody of the City Treasurer.

In addition to its chairman, Alderman Ed Burke (Ward 14), the Finance Committee has 34 members.

“I agree with most of the City Council reforms proposed earlier this week by 2nd Ward Aldermanic candidate Kenny Johnson and Congressman Jesse Jackson Jr.,” Monroe said. “Particularly, I endorse their proposal that the number of City Council Standing Committees be reduced from 27 to 10; that committees be required to meet at least 10 times per year and that a proposed piece of legislation must be voted on by committees within six weeks or it automatically goes to the floor of the Council for debate and a vote, without requiring a vote to discharge it from committee.

“However, I would go further,” he said. “I propose that a portion of Aldermen’s pay be docked for missing committee meetings and that any Alderman, like Tillman, who misses more than two-thirds of the meetings should be removed from the committee.”

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(See attached chart of Finance Committee meetings and Tillman’s absences.)

Alderman Tillman's Attendance at Finance Committee Meetings 2003-2006

2003		2004		2005		2006	
4/4	Absent	1/12	Absent	1/10	Absent	1/10	Absent
5/1	Absent	2/5	Absent	2/2	Absent	2/7	Absent
6/2	Absent	2/11	Absent	2/8	<i>Present</i>	2/27	Absent
6/4	Absent	2/27	Absent	2/9	Absent	3/1	Absent
7/8	Absent	3/5	<i>Present</i>	3/3	<i>Present</i>	3/27	Absent
7/28	<i>Present</i>	3/8	Absent	3/8	Absent	3/29	Absent
9/3	Absent	3/29	Absent	3/29	Absent	4/7	Absent
9/26	Absent	3/30	Absent	4/4	Absent	4/24	Absent
10/1	Absent	4/30	<i>Present</i>	4/29	<i>Present</i>	5/18	Absent
11/3	Absent	5/3	<i>Present</i>	5/9	Absent	5/24	Absent
11/7	Absent	5/20	Absent	6/3	Absent	6/21	Absent
11/18	Absent	5/26	Absent	6/8	<i>Present</i>	6/28	Absent
12/15	Absent	6/18	Absent	6/24	Absent	7/25	Absent
12/17	Absent	6/23	Absent	7/20	<i>Present</i>	9/8	Absent
		7/20	Absent	7/27	Absent	9/13	Absent
		8/31	Absent	9/12	<i>Present</i>	9/29	Absent
		9/1	Absent	9/14	<i>Present</i>	10/3	Absent
		9/15	Absent	10/3	Absent	10/24	<i>Present</i>
		9/20	Absent	10/6	Absent	10/30	<i>Present</i>
		9/29	Absent	10/29	Absent	11/6	Absent
		10/20	Absent	11/2	Absent	11/11	Absent
		10/26	Absent	11/23	Absent	11/14	Absent
		11/1	Absent	11/28	Absent	11/15	Absent
		11/29	Absent	11/29	Absent	11/21	<i>Present</i>
		12/7	Absent	11/30	Absent		
		12/10	Absent	12/5	<i>Present</i>		
				12/6	<i>Present</i>		
				12/7	Absent		
				12/12	Absent		
				12/14	Absent		
				12/19	Absent		

Total Meetings Tillman Attended Per Year

2003	1
2004	3
2005	9
2006	3