



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Supervisor Russell Stamper II, District 5

For Immediate Release March 19, 2014

Contact: Bill Zaferos, Public Information Manager

414/278-4230 or William.zaferos@milwaukeecountywi.gov

SUPERVISOR RUSSELL STAMPER II SAYS CULTURAL ASSETS TASK FORCE SHOULD FOCUS ON EDUCATION, TRANSIT, NEIGHBORHOOD REHABILITATION AND STREET REPAIRS

Milwaukee County Supervisor Russell Stamper II said today that the Cultural and Entertainment Needs Task Force should focus on Milwaukee's neighborhood redevelopment, transit and street repair rather than on a new arena and improvements to other amenities.

"There are more pressing issues than Milwaukee's cultural and entertainment needs," Stamper said. "Yes, I support our cultural and entertainment assets, and I support a new downtown arena. These things are needed to allow a city to thrive, but not at the expense of the people. We have to deal with real social ills and the County's infrastructure before we start talking about funding for cultural and entertainment assets."

When considering an investment in cultural and entertainment institutions, Stamper said, "we have to remember that we have pot holes on nearly every street, garbage that blows through yards, neighborhoods riddled with vacant buildings and people who can't get to their jobs because of inadequate transit."

Stamper said the region must first invest in infrastructure and improving the quality of life for the residents of Milwaukee County before considering funding for County amenities or a new arena.

"These should be our highest priorities: repairing our streets, rehabilitating our neighborhoods, providing a quality education for our children, public safety and dealing with social ills such as infant mortality, poverty, jobs and infrastructure," Stamper said. "The community in the inner city rarely visits the institutions under discussion by the Task Force. They are simply trying to survive day to day. These are the people we must remember as we go forward."

###