



LIPSCOMB REPORT

THE 1ST DISTRICT CONNECTION

WINTER 2009

Theodore Lipscomb

Milwaukee County
1st District Supervisor

Milwaukee County Courthouse

901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

Phone

(414) 278-4280

Fax

(414) 223-1380

E-mail

theodore.lipscomb@milwcnty.com

Website

www.milwaukee.gov/Lipscomb

Legislative Assistant

Lyn Moore

Committee Assignments

Economic & Community
Development Committee
(Vice-Chair)

Health & Human Needs
Committee

Parks, Energy & Environment
Committee

Appointments

Milwaukee County Research
Park Corporation Board

Dear Constituent:

On April 21, 2008, I was sworn into office as your County Supervisor. It was an exciting day and the start of an intense new experience that I have enjoyed. The First District is perhaps the most diverse in Milwaukee County; it includes most of Glendale and much of the north side of Milwaukee. In order to represent the entire district, I must often balance competing priorities.

Board Chairman Lee Holloway appointed me to three County Board Committees: Parks, Energy & Environment; Health & Human Needs; and Economic & Community Development (where I serve as Vice-Chair). Subsequently, I was also appointed to serve on the Milwaukee County Research Park Board. These assignments have provided an ideal exposure to a variety of issues. In areas such as economic development, I was immediately able to dive in and contribute. However, many of the social service programs that the county provides are sure to generate a continuing education for some time given their history, complexity, and challenges.

For the last couple of months I have been working with my colleagues on the 2009 Milwaukee County Budget. The budget that we eventually adopted is a compromise. No one got everything that they wanted, but I voted for the budget because it reflects the priorities of my district and constituents. That is the legislative process.

We successfully maintained most transit fares instead of raising them again, kept street parking at the lakefront free, and minimized other fee increases where possible. The parks will not face the drastic service cuts that were proposed by the County Executive, and I continue to fight for critical infrastructure investments such as the repair of the Estabrook Park Dam.

It is a pleasure to serve as your representative, and I am dedicated to the job. I take great pride in working to resolve constituent issues. Please contact my office if you ever have a problem with a Milwaukee County service, facility or program. If you have an idea to improve Milwaukee County, I would like to hear it.

Sincerely,

Theodore Lipscomb
Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District

Join My E-mail Friends List:

Would you like to receive updates on issues and events concerning Milwaukee County? If so, I invite you to enroll in my *E-mail Friends List*. You can join by indicating in the response section on the back or by sending me an e-mail message at: lyn.moore@milwcnty.com with the subject line "Add me to the E-mail Friends List". Please be sure to include your name and address.



Supervisor Lipscomb Supports County Budget

Maintain Our Quality of Life

On November 10, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved a 2009 Budget that maintains County services, but reversed several proposals from the County Executive to privatize certain functions currently provided by public employees. Some of the privatization schemes assumed very aggressive savings without any bidding or legitimate documentation to support the assumptions; if they turned out to be wrong, as I believe they would have, this would have left us with a large deficit. I also voted to sustain several of County Executive Walker's vetoes, but only a few of these were successful. In the end, the budget was a compromise. No one got everything that they wanted.

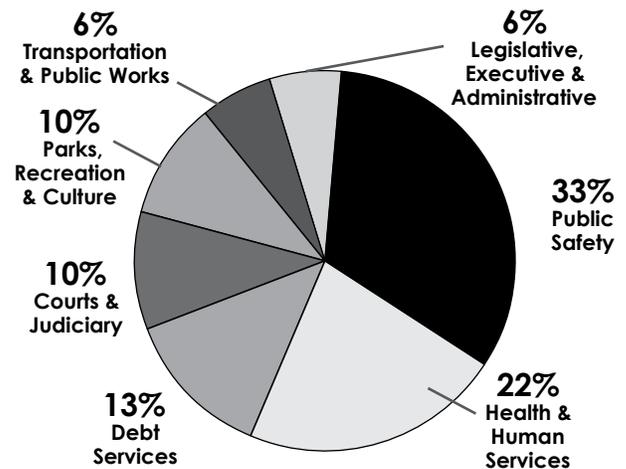
Almost 50% of the County Budget is devoted to providing safety net services to the most vulnerable citizens in our community, especially children, seniors and the mentally ill. I favored funding for our nationally acclaimed County Paramedic program, which provides advanced lifesaving services to our community. I also voted for the expansion of the cost-effective Family Care Program in Milwaukee County to begin serving people with disabilities under the age of 60 next year.

I strongly supported funding for public safety and the District Attorney's office. My constituents have told me that Sheriff patrols, especially in the parks, tough drug enforcement and prosecution of criminal activity should be a top priority. Our transit system and 15,000 acre County Park system are also popular, so I pushed to reduce large fee increases proposed for transit, golf, boating and swimming. We must keep our transit system and recreational opportunities affordable because they add to our quality of life. I opposed the installation of parking meters on Lincoln Memorial Drive so that our beautiful lakefront remains free and accessible to all.

While I continue to believe that we must dramatically change the environment in which we provide behavioral health services, I did not support a proposal to borrow \$750,000 for planning and design of a new building because doing so ignores several other potentially viable options in favor of an undefined project of untold cost. I did support a \$1 million effort to fund supportive community integrated housing for the mentally ill which will help to ensure quality options once people leave the hospital.

The 2009 Budget contains total expenditures of \$1.39 billion and a property tax levy of \$257.6 million, which is a \$7.7 million, or 3.1%, increase from the 2008 Adopted Budget. The property tax rate per \$1,000 of equalized value is \$3.95, which is an increase of seven cents per \$1,000 from 2008. An average Milwaukee home assessed at \$150,000, can expect an increase of approximately \$12 on the County portion of their tax bill.

Milwaukee County Property Tax Levy Distribution



Referendum Update

On November 4, 2008 Milwaukee County voters approved an advisory referendum to support mass transit; parks, recreation, and culture; emergency medical services; and property tax relief through a 1% sales

tax. Before the sales tax and property tax relief can take effect, the state legislature must give Milwaukee County this authority and the County Board subsequently needs to adopt a resolution implementing these changes.

In the First District, the referendum passed

overwhelmingly, with nearly 62% voting yes. I hear the message from voters in my district loud and clear. I also know that many of those who voted against the referendum did so because they had valid concerns about how the revenues could be used, and I will work to address those issues. It

is imperative that any legislation to implement the sales tax contain strong provisions to ensure property tax relief, use of funds as they were intended, and a stabilization fund to account for year to year fluctuations in sales tax collections.

Regional Transit Authority

Parallel to Milwaukee County's efforts to secure dedicated funding for our transit system with a sales tax, the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority (RTA) is also advocating for the use of a sales tax to pay for transit service that would be operated within a regional system. The RTA would initially include portions of Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha counties and could be expanded to include surrounding communities in the future. This would not need to be an additional sales tax but could be funded with the transit portion of the proposed sales tax that was the subject of the November 4th referendum. I support the concept of an RTA and I hope that these two initiatives will come together, but there will need to be more clarity on many issues, particularly governance. This will be an important year for transit in our region; the business community and government leaders are finally recognizing that a quality transit system is a key driver of economic health and sustainability.



Supervisor Lipscomb rode on a hybrid "Bus Rapid Transit" or BRT bus that could be used to modernize the Milwaukee County Transit System fleet in the coming years.

America's Black Holocaust Museum

It was not long ago that the downtown Milwaukee Public Museum (MPM) faced many financial troubles. MPM survived and is again thriving under new leadership and record setting crowds for major exhibits such as Body Worlds and Titanic. In July, America's Black Holocaust Museum, located in Milwaukee's Bronzeville District, closed its doors amidst difficulty, just two years after the death of founder Dr. James Cameron.

Dr. Cameron founded America's Black Holocaust Museum in 1988 after an inspiring visit to the Yad Veshem Holocaust Memorial in Israel. He wanted to document injustices suffered by people of African heritage in the United States. Cameron also authored *A Time of Terror*, an autobiography of his personal ordeal with racism at the hands of a Ku Klux Klan organized lynch mob. In August of 1930, when Cameron was 16 years old, he and two teenage friends were accused of the murder of a young white man in Marion, Indiana. As a result, Cameron and his two friends were brutally lynched by a mob of 15,000 at the Grant County Courthouse Square. His friends died, but Cameron miraculously survived.

Supervisor Lipscomb authored a budget amendment to include \$50,000 in the 2009 Milwaukee County Budget to assist the museum with strategic planning and fund development. Supervisors Thomas, Coggs and Johnson co-sponsored the measure, which was included in the adopted budget for 2009. The goal of the funding is to help the museum re-emerge as a strong and sustainable organization. The City of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin also stepped up to assist the museum with reorganizing their real estate debt and organizational development.

For more information, visit the museum online at www.blackholocaustmuseum.org.

Sign up

for my eNewsletter by e-mailing lyn.moore@milwcnty.com. Please list your name, home address and e-mail.

Estabrook Park Dam: *Our Lake Delton Disaster?*



You may have heard about Lake Delton, the artificial lake that emptied out due to infrastructure failures following the heavy rainstorms in June. Here in Milwaukee County, we also have what is essentially an artificial lake, and it needs work to ensure that we never face the loss of property value and the exceptional repair costs that Lake Delton did.

Our impoundment, a 5.5 mile-long stretch of the Milwaukee River that extends from the Estabrook Park Dam north to the waterfalls in Kletsch Park, is used for boating, skiing, and fishing. It was created in the 1930's as part of a federal Works Project Administration initiative. The project re-routed the path of the Milwaukee River in Lincoln Park, removed a rock-ledge that served as a natural dam, and built a manmade dam in Estabrook Park to regulate the water level and control flooding.

For a time, the dam was operated by Supervisor Lipscomb's maternal grandfather, Raymond T. Greiten, who lived about a hundred yards away, and close enough to manually open the dam in heavy rains. This allowed the County to spill-off water as needed, lower the water level, and reduce upstream flooding in storm situations. The Estabrook Dam has served us all for more than 70 years, but now it needs a few repairs and it is time to sound the alarm. There is a clear danger to ignoring this issue any longer.

In 2006, Milwaukee County conducted an engineering report that detailed the necessary repairs and estimated costs. Without casting any blame, it is clear that the report essentially stayed on someone's shelf and nothing was done to make the repairs. Two years later, and after an updated cost analysis that nearly doubled the estimated cost, the repairs were still not

included in the Parks Department's budget request or the County Executive's proposed 2009 Capital Budget.

Supervisor Lipscomb and Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., secured a placeholder for the project in the adopted 2009 Capital Improvement Budget. Before it can move forward, the project needs action from the Parks Department and the Administration to explain why it was left out, and to suggest which other projects should be delayed in order to pay for these repairs.

Recently the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) ordered that the dam be opened until emergency repairs are made. When the dam is opened, the water level drops dramatically, it becomes largely un-navigable, and the riverbanks are exposed creating stinky mudflats. These mudflats are heavily polluted due to past industrial dumping. For 2009, the DNR has proposed cleaning up just one hotspot of pollution in the impoundment, which is estimated to cost about \$30 million. You can only imagine what it would cost to remediate 11 miles of riverbank.

If you would like to help, please contact my office for more details.

Upstream of the dam is over \$108 Million of assessed value, mostly in the City of Glendale, which would be negatively impacted if the dam fails or is not permitted to operate. The City of Glendale is officially on record supporting the repair of the dam. **This issue is important to all property tax payers in Milwaukee County, because if the property values along the river fall, the property tax burden is shifted onto the remaining property tax base.** That is why this is an issue with dramatic environmental and economic importance. We must work together to repair the dam, preserve the recreational opportunities, and protect property values.

County Residents saved more than \$207,000 on prescription drugs through the first half of 2008

Savings up to 50% available to all Milwaukee County residents with no prescription drug coverage

A record number of Milwaukee County residents are taking advantage of a discount drug card offered by Milwaukee County and the National Association of Counties (NACo). The free prescription drug discount cards offer an average savings of 20% off common retail prescription prices. As of June, residents saved \$207,316 on prescription drugs since the program was launched in 2006. Milwaukee County residents are on pace to save more than \$200,000 in 2008 alone. Those savings greatly exceed what Milwaukee County pays in dues to NACo on an annual basis.

Special thanks go to former County Supervisor Richard D. Nyklewicz, Jr., who took the initiative to offer this program to Milwaukee County residents in 2006. While residents can save 20% at the pharmacy, even bigger savings can be realized through a mail order service. This program will deliver three month supplies of certain medications to you for 50% off the retail price.

No enrollment forms or membership fees are required. Regardless of age or income, any Milwaukee County resident without prescription drug coverage can receive the discount by simply showing the card at any participating pharmacy or by calling a toll-free number. To obtain a card, Milwaukee County residents can contact their County Supervisor at 278-4222. For more information about NACo's free prescription drug discount card, call toll free 1-877-321-2652 or visit <http://naco.advancex.com>.



Cards can also be obtained from one of the following locations:

- ▶ **Milwaukee County Board Offices**
901 N. 9th Street, Courthouse RM 201
- ▶ **Lubsey Clinic**
5300 W. Villard Avenue
- ▶ **Department of Health & Human Services**
1220 W. Vliet Street & 1673 S. 9th Street
- ▶ **Department on Aging**
310 W. Wisconsin Avenue
- ▶ **Southside Health Clinic**
1639 S. 23rd Street
- ▶ **MLK Heritage Clinic**
2555 N. King Drive
- ▶ **16th Street Health Center**
1032 S. 16th Street
- ▶ **Clinica Latina**
1238 S. 16th Street
- ▶ **Milwaukee County Parks Administration**
9480 Watertown Plank Road

David Schulz Aquatic Center to be completed in 2009

You may have noticed that construction is underway on an aquatic center at Lincoln Park. The water park, which is expected to open this spring, will be similar to the Cool Waters Aquatic Center in Greenfield.

The new aquatic center will offer various water-based recreation, including a zero-depth to 5-foot-deep pool with lap lanes, water slides, a diving well and interactive water toys. The center will also include a “lazy river” circular path adjacent to the pools.

The facility will be named after former County Executive David F. Schulz, who died in October, 2007. Before his election to the County’s top office, Schulz embraced the water park concept while serving as Director of the Milwaukee County Parks Department.



DAVID SCHULZ AQUATIC CENTER AT LINCOLN PARK

Supervisor Lipscomb (second from the left) is pictured at the groundbreaking with the family of David Schulz as well as Parks Director Sue Black, Supervisor Chris Larson, and Supervisor Gerry Broderick (Chair of the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee).



Lyn Moore: Here to help the 1st District

Supervisor Lipscomb is proud to introduce his Legislative Assistant, Lyn Moore. She brings many years of private sector experience to Milwaukee County and is focused on making sure things are running smoothly. Lyn shares Sup. Lipscomb's determination to provide high quality customer service to all constituents. If you call the office, she is likely to be your first point of contact. Please let her know if there is any way that we can better serve you.



1st District Population Grows

Supervisor Lipscomb and his wife Nicole are proud to announce the birth of their second child, Peyton. She was born November 20, 2008 and weighed in at a healthy 9 pounds and 5 ounces. Peyton's big sister Taylor, now two years old, enjoys having a baby in the house. Mom, dad, and the girls are all doing great!



Unknown Future for St. Michael's Hospital

After more than 50 years at 2400 West Villard Avenue, Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare pulled the plug on St. Michael's Hospital in 2006 - leaving a big void. The shell of the old hospital remains with only a small family clinic operation remaining open. The building will not reopen as a full service hospital. Unless a new consensus emerges, the building will most likely face the wrecking ball sometime in 2009.

County Executive Scott Walker has proposed contracting with Weas Development to redevelop the hospital tower and lease it to Milwaukee County as a replacement for our ailing Mental Health Complex, currently located on the county grounds in Wauwatosa. The County Board rejected Walker's proposal to enter into lease negotiations, but the County Exec vetoed this action. A competing scheme that proposed initiating a design process for a new building on the county grounds failed twice

- this leaves us nearly at square one. Walker still wants to lease and other members are convinced that we must build a new facility.

Soon after the hospital closed, I joined this drama in the middle act and am truly frustrated by the lack of progress. Whatever decision we make will take years to implement. I know that the status quo must change, I believe that most of my colleagues agree, but that is where the consensus ends. Wheaton has already threatened to tear down the hospital in 2009 unless the county reaches an agreement to lease before the end of this year. This deadline cannot be met and thus it is likely that the redevelopment option will come off the table due to inaction. I voted for lease negotiations because I believe that we should not take this option off the table unless we understand the full costs of our alternatives. I voted twice against borrowing money to initiate a design process for a new hospital because I consider that proposal to be undefined and of untold cost. A new creative solution may emerge in time, but I've learned a lot from the process - this is not the way to buy or build a hospital.

Milwaukee County Supervisor, 1st District
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201 • Milwaukee, WI 53233

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Have Some Winter Fun with Milwaukee County FREE Days!
Complimentary admission to Milwaukee County Residents only with valid photo ID on the following days!

- Milwaukee Public Museum: FREE Every Monday!**
(Additional charges apply for Humphrey IMAX Dome, Daniel M. Soref Planetarium & special exhibitions)
- Mitchell Park DOMES: FREE Every Monday!**
from 9:00AM - Noon (Except major holidays)
- Milwaukee Art Museum: FREE Every Wednesday!**
(Excludes special exhibits)
- Milwaukee County Zoo: 2009 FREE Days**
January 3, February 7, March 7,
April 4, November 7, December 5,
Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day
& New Year's Day

Cut along here and mail your response to Supervisor Lipscomb



Mail Your Response to:

1st District Milwaukee
County Supervisor
Theodore Lipscomb
901 N. 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233-1425

You may also e-mail
your response to:
theodore.lipscomb@milwcnty.com

NAME: _____

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CITY/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Check Here if you'd like to join my 1st District eNewsletter List

COMMENTS: _____
