



# *Milwaukee County Board*

Supervisor Deanna Alexander, 18<sup>th</sup> District

For Immediate Release – March 26, 2015  
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## **O'Donnell Talks: Nothing But Talk**

County Board refuses to move forward on plans of compromise

Multiple proposals addressing the future of O'Donnell Park and garage went before the County Board for a vote Thursday. Every option on the table was ultimately denied or delayed.

“As elected officials representing a community of diverse opinions, some of us understand that we can compromise by giving up something we'd like to see in legislation in order to gain support for something we need to see,” said Supervisor Deanna Alexander.

“Today, I proposed a plan that would have met the stated top needs of every board member, so that O'Donnell-sale supporters and opponents alike, could each compromise on small issues in order to be effective for the public, while still standing confidently on principle with the big issues,” said Supervisor Alexander.

The proposals and amendments presented today would have led to O'Donnell Park and garage being listed in an RFP for development, while giving preference to the Milwaukee Art Museum to have an exclusive initial time frame to promote its ideas for the space.

Some Supervisors objected to the land being listed as “surplus,” and some objected to the timeframe allotted to the museum. Both of these points, amongst others, were recognized and legislative proposals modified in order to curry favorable votes from a majority of Supervisors.

The Board, however, delayed making any final decisions.

“I hear buzz in the community about ideas for this space—ideas that are not necessarily private development and might very well make O'Donnell Park a much better public recreation space—but without members being willing to give a little in compromise, the Board's O'Donnell talks are unfortunately just talk. I sincerely hope to see leaps and bounds of progress when the delayed proposals come back to us,” Supervisor Alexander said.

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