



HARRIS' NEWS

JUNE 2011

“NEWS WORTH KNOWING”

Dear Friends,

It remains a sincere honor to serve as your Milwaukee County Supervisor. I hope you have found me to be extremely responsive and accessible. Your emails, phone calls, letters, and face to face meetings give me fresh ideas and continue to energize my commitment to the Milwaukee County community. Enjoy!

In this edition of Harris' News you will find:

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- ❖ **Summer 2011 2nd District Town Hall meetings**
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- ❖ **Supervisor Harris Committee change**
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Milwaukee County Board Committees

Health & Human Needs

Parks, Energy, and Environment

Transportation, Public Works, & Transit

Community Memberships

Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council

Youth Sports Authority Board

Appointed Committees

National Association of Young Black Elected Officials (NAYBEO) Chairwoman of Health and Human Service Committee

Wisconsin Counties Association Constitution Committee

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County Board committee approves resolution to recover 90% of \$1.3 million in SERTA funding

On Wednesday, May 11, during the Transportation and Public Works committee, I endorsed a resolution to re-collect 90% of \$1.3 million of the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority (SERTA) funding. This vote was imperative due to the State's Joint Finance Committee eliminating all regional transit authorities in Wisconsin (RTA). All assets of the SERTA, including revenues accumulated from vehicle rental fees, would be divided equally among three counties: Kenosha, Racine and Milwaukee. The vast majority of these fees were generated at Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport through a car rental fee. It is reasonable that revenues generated in Milwaukee County should be re-

allocated back to Milwaukee County.

State representatives are seeking to make an equal distribution of the \$1.3 million dollars amongst all three counties, citing that SERTA wasted dollars on a high priced lobbyist.

According to a study conducted by Enterprise Car Rental, 90% of SERTA's income was raised in Milwaukee County, 6% in Racine County, and 4% in Kenosha County.

This resolution is needed to ensure Milwaukee County gets its fair share of adequate funding that it contributed to the Southeastern Regional Transit Authority.

Summer 2011 2nd District Town Hall meetings

On Wednesday, **June 1, 2011** at 6pm, the 2nd District Town Hall meeting will convene at **McGovern Park Senior Center, 4500 W. Custer Avenue**. As your elected Milwaukee County representative, it is important that I continue to keep my finger on the pulse of the community. If you are not able to attend, feel free to contact me at my office, 278-4278, and let me know what issues are important to you. Thank you for all of your support and input. I look forward to hearing from you soon. To view the town hall postcard [click here](#).



Golden Idol Senior Talent Competition

The Milwaukee County Department on Aging, in conjunction with Milwaukee County Senior Centers, will present Golden Idol 2011. The event will take place Tuesday, June 7, 2011 2:00pm-4:00pm at American Serb Hall, 5101 W. Oklahoma Avenue. **FREE** tickets will be available at all senior centers in Milwaukee County June 1st-June 6th while supplies last. For a list of Senior Center locations in Milwaukee County, [click here](#) or call 414-289-5733 for more information. To view previous Golden Idol winners and runner ups [click here](#).

Supervisor Harris Committee change

As the County Board continues to implement changes, one change that will affect me directly is my appointment to the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee. This appointment is effectively immediately. While I will no longer serve on the Economic and Community Development Committee, I look forward to serving on the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee to make a difference for the constituents I serve. Parks are the jewels of our neighborhoods, and I am excited to work with my colleagues and Parks Director Sue Black to preserve these assets for future generations.

Impact of Family Care on Seniors and Disabled

Family Care provides over 7,000 members with high quality, cost effective services to long term care consumers. In a recent report by the Legislative Audit Bureau, Family Care has improved access to long term care by allowing participants to avoid institutional care. As Governor Walker introduced his state 2011-2013 state budget, the state's Medical Assistance program would face a \$500 Million reduction in funding. This will cap enrollment to the Family Care program effective June 20, 2011. In addition, the cap will also create cost-shifting in the form of increased nursing home admissions, hospitalizations, admissions to psychiatric facilities, admissions to correctional facilities, and Medicaid card costs.

Family Care continues to be a cost-effective model for long-term care reform in Wisconsin. This program would eliminate waiting lists for people age 18-59 with physical and

developmental disabilities, reducing institutional care, and reducing other Medical Assistance costs, such as hospitalization and emergency care use. If the State should pass the 2011-2013 recommended budget by Governor Walker capping the number of enrollees in Family Care, Milwaukee County will not be able to clear its waiting list of approximately 2,000 disabled individuals awaiting enrollment in Family Care and will have to implement a waiting list for seniors for the first time in nearly a decade.

During last month's County Board meeting, I supported a resolution opposing provisions in the proposed State budget reducing funding and setting program enrollment caps in the Family Care Program. It is important that we maintain these quality of life services for our constituents who need help.

McGovern Park Community Garden Build Day

In an effort to promote sustainable food production and strengthen community relationships, Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation, in partnership with Neighborhood Improvement Development Corporation, Milwaukee Urban Gardens, Milwaukee County Parks, and Groundwork Milwaukee, created the first ever Milwaukee County Park community vegetable garden at McGovern Park. In a time where diet and health are at the forefront of our consciousness, this project was created to bridge healthy food production with community engagement. The garden was built on May 21st with the help of volunteers from Groundwork Milwaukee, Milwaukee Job Corps, Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, Natures Path Organic Foods, and Havenwoods Economic Development Corporation. With the help of the community this garden will serve as a symbol of what we can do in our neighborhoods when we put our minds to it. Great Job Everyone! The McGovern Park Community Garden is a Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative supported by the Greater Milwaukee Foundation.

