



2<sup>nd</sup> District Milwaukee County Supervisor

# Nikiya Q. Harris



2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COUNTY CONNECTION

SUMMER 2012

#### COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEES

- Health & Human Needs, Vice-Chair
- Judiciary, Safety & General Services, Vice-Chair
- Parks, Energy & Environment

#### COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIPS

- Milwaukee Child Welfare Partnership Council
- Youth Sports Authority Board

#### APPOINTED COMMITTEES

- Milwaukee County Youth Task Force, Chair
- National Association of Young Black Elected Officials Chairwoman of Health & Human Service Committee
- Wisconsin Counties Association Constitution Committee

Dear Neighbors,

Just two years ago, I was elected in a Special Election to serve the good people of District 2. I am proud and excited to be elected as your County Supervisor for another 4 years.

It is amazing how fast the years can go by! Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you.

As we gear up for another great Milwaukee summer, I encourage you to take some time to walk along Lincoln Creek Parkway, have a family picnic at McGovern Park, or stop by Growing Power to pick up fresh fruit and vegetables. These are a few of the wonderful treasures we can be proud of in the 2nd District.

In this newsletter, you will find information on Milwaukee County's Birth Certificate Program, including an update on Voter ID. We've also included some gardening tips for those who love to enjoy getting dirty.

Now that we're in a new County term, I've taken on new roles here at the County Board. I am now the Vice-Chair for the Health and Human Needs Committee and for the Judiciary, Safety, and General Services Committee. I am also a member of the Parks, Energy and Environment Committee. These committees are near and dear to my heart and have a direct effect on the issues I am most concerned about, such as mental health.

We've included a community calendar to remind you of special events in the community, including Summerfest, African World Festival, Jazz in the Park, Wisconsin State Fair. Additionally, I have provided upcoming town hall meeting dates for your future planning. I also look forward to seeing you at a town hall meeting. Enjoy your summer!

*Proudly representing Milwaukee County's 2nd District*

## Looking for an Unsung Hero

So often there are individuals in our community that go unrecognized for the positive contributions they have made to society.

In the 2nd District, we appreciate those who strive to make a difference in the lives of others. Help Supervisor Harris recognize that special person by nominating them as an UNSUNG HERO.

To learn more about nominations please contact David Crowley at [david.c.crowley@milwcnty.com](mailto:david.c.crowley@milwcnty.com) or call 414-278-5071.

*We look forward to hearing from you!*

Nikiya Q.  
Harris

2ND DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT COMMUNITY EVENTS

### JUNE

**Jazz in the Park**  
6/7 - 9/6 (every Thursday)  
Cathedral Square Park  
520 E. Wells Street

**PrideFest**  
6/8 - 6/10  
Maier Festival Park

**Polish Fest**  
6/15 - 6/17  
Maier Festival Park

**Juneteenth**  
6/19  
Martin Luther King Dr. and Locust

**Town Hall Meeting**  
6/20 at 6-7pm  
Capitol Drive  
Lutheran Church  
3965 N. 53rd St., Milwaukee

**Summerfest**  
6/27 - 7/1, 7/3 - 7/8  
Maier Festival Park

### JULY

**Bastille Days**  
7/12 - 7/15  
Cathedral Square Park  
520 E. Wells St.

**Town Hall Meeting**  
7/18 at 6-7pm  
Capitol Drive  
Lutheran Church  
3965 N. 53rd St., Milwaukee

**Festa Italiana**  
7/19 - 7/22  
Maier Festival Park

**German Fest**  
7/26 - 7/29  
Maier Festival Park

**Brady Street Days**  
7/28  
Brady Street

### AUGUST

**Wisconsin State Fair Park**  
8/2 - 8/12  
State Fair Park

**African World Festival**  
8/4 - 8/5  
Maier Festival Park

**The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel a la Carte**  
8/16 - 8/19  
Milwaukee County Zoo

**Irish Fest**  
8/16 - 8/19  
Maier Festival Park

### SEPTEMBER

**Indian Summer Festival**  
9/7 - 9/9  
Maier Festival Park

**Town Hall Meeting**  
9/19 at 6-7pm  
Elks Lodge  
555 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee

### OCTOBER

**October 29, 2012 @ 7pm**  
County Board Public Hearing  
on County Budget  
Location TBA

### NOVEMBER

**November 5, 2012 8:30am**  
Budget Adoption Meeting  
County Courthouse  
Board Room Chambers

### DECEMBER

**Town Hall Meeting**  
12/12 at 6-7pm  
Elks Lodge  
555 W. Good Hope Rd., Milwaukee

# Birth Certificates and Voter ID

A number of constituents have been contacting Supervisor Harris concerning Voter ID. Understandably, there is some confusion about how the new Voter ID law is being implemented. To be clear, Voter ID is not currently in effect.

Due to two separate injunctions granted by the Courts, you do not need an ID to vote, at least for now, pending whether this item is taken up by the State Supreme Court. The Courts have stated that they will not take up the bill, but anything could happen as we get closer to the 2012 Presidential Elections.

In 2011, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved a Budget Amendment to provide 5,000 free birth certificates to help Milwaukee County residents obtain a Voter ID. To date, Milwaukee County has provided over 425 free birth certificates.

Remember, the Milwaukee County Register of Deeds Office can only provide a birth certificate for individuals born in the County of Milwaukee. **If you would like more information on how to obtain a free birth certificate, please call David Crowley at 414-278-5071 or visit <http://county.milwaukee.gov/D2/VoterID.htm>.**

## Getting into Gardening

*Do you want to add some color to your yard? Try gardening with annuals or perennials. Annuals will give you instant color that lasts from spring to frost. Perennials come back year after year, increasing in size and can be divided within a few years. Many new varieties, like Stella D'Oro daylilies, Blackeyed Susans, Salvias, Knock-Out roses or Purple Coneflowers, will bloom practically all year. Your best bet is to use annuals to fill in holes in your perennial border between seasons of bloom. In your choice of plants, the most important consideration should be to pick the right plant for the right spot. How much sun does your flower bed get? Will it be shaded half of the day or most of the day? Is it soggy most of the year, or will it be dry through the hot summer months? There is a plant for every condition, and any good garden center will be able to advise you. Happy Gardening!*

## Supervisor Harris hosts Mental Health Summit

In February, Supervisor Harris partnered with Alverno College to host Milwaukee's first African-American Mental Health Practitioner Summit (AAMHPS). More than 100 Mental Health Practitioners, Clergy Members and Elected Officials joined in a roundtable discussion on the barriers African-Americans face concerning mental illnesses. AAMHPS resulted in the exchange of new ideas to educate the community on mental health, while advocating on behalf of families affected by the lack of mental health resources.

Since the summit, Supervisor Harris has been participating in community-based focus groups to hear from Milwaukee County residents and mental health professionals on how to improve access to quality mental health services in local communities.

"We are committed to tackling the issues that face individuals with mental illnesses," Supervisor Harris said. "Milwaukee County is adding \$3 million for community-based care in the Behavioral Health Division while continuing to look at how we can improve access to mental health resources in the County as a whole."

## Harris in the Community

**Picture 1:** Dr. Pat McManus, Black Health Coalition, Sup. Harris, Sup. Johnson, African-American Mental Health Practitioner Summit.

**Picture 2:** Supervisor Harris hosting one of her town hall meetings.

**Picture 3:** Supervisor Harris during a Youth Task Force Meeting held at the Juvenile Detention Center.



MILWAUKEE COUNTY

# Youth Task force



The Milwaukee County Youth Task Force, created by the County Board in 2011, is looking forward to making recommendations to the County Board later this year. The Task Force is made up of ten young people from throughout Milwaukee County, five adults that work with young people in our communities and two County Supervisors. The Youth Task Force was created to give youth and youth advocates the opportunity to evaluate different programs and services that Milwaukee County services to young people.

The Youth Task Force, chaired by Supervisor Harris, is meeting bi-weekly until September to discuss a wide variety of topics, including:

- Youth violence prevention
- Parks and recreation activities
- Youth Sports Authority
- Public transit
- Children's court programming and youth services
- The creation of a youth county government program
- County sponsored youth employment opportunities

Upon completion of the task force, the recommendations will be presented to the County Board for review and possible implementation.

Supervisor Harris is taking a lead role in encouraging Milwaukee County to work with our youth in partnerships, while giving them a chance to participate in local government.

"Thanks to the vision of former Supervisor Eyon Biddle, Sr., I am pleased to head the Milwaukee County Youth Task Force," Supervisor Harris said. "This gives our young people a real stake in their government. It's a great opportunity for these young people to learn about the political process firsthand."

**For more information on the Youth Task Force, contact David Crowley at 414-278-5071.**