Dear Neighbors,

I hope you are having a happy and joyous holiday season!

The new year will bring great change to the County Board and we are committed to doing our best to continue to serve our community.

This past year has presented many challenges, but was also filled with great success. We adopted a socially and fiscally responsible budget for next year that does not raise your county property taxes. The budget, which was built on compromise, invests in public safety, promotes intergovernmental cooperation, and improves our delivery of mental health services. I worked hard in the budget to deliver results to our neighborhood like keeping our indoor pools open and cleaning up South Shore Beach.

Preserving our public assets is important to moving our region forward. I hope you will provide feedback to me on the funding of our cultural amenities. A survey is attached and I invite you to join me for Coffee & Culture! I believe in our county and want to see it prosper by providing access to affordable health care, growing public transit, and attracting more family-supporting jobs.

Consider becoming a tourist in our county by taking advantage of our great attractions in winter like the Slice of Ice downtown or new free days at the Milwaukee Public Museum. I’ll see you there!

Sincerely,

Representing Milwaukee’s near South Side and Bay View Neighborhoods

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Winter In Our County

- Slice of Ice at Red Arrow Park
- Nutcracker Suite and Music Under Glass at Mitchell Park Domes
- Milwaukee County Winter Farmers’ Market, Saturdays at Mitchell Park
- Little Wonders Childrens’ Activities at Wehr Park (Various Dates)
  - January 26
- Winterfest at Boerner Botanical Gardens

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Please visit my website www.milwaukee.gov/Dimitrijevic or scan the QR code on the back!
Earlier this year, Chairwoman Dimitrijevic was named to the Cultural and Entertainment Capital Needs Task Force to discuss how best to improve local amenities such as parks, museums and the Milwaukee County Zoo. The Task Force met for the first time on December 13. The Task Force will also discuss the future of the Milwaukee Bucks and their need for a new arena.

Monday, January 6 • 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. • The Milwaukee Public Museum
Tuesday, January 7 • 11:30 to 12:30 p.m. • Milwaukee Art Museum Café Calatrava

Stay tuned for more Coffee & Culture. Send your e-mail to marina.dimitrijevic@milwcnty.com to signup for receiving updates via e-newsletter.

"Milwaukee County has a long, proud tradition of being a major sponsor of parks, recreation, transit and the arts.

*However, we cannot do it alone. These regional assets need regional support from our partners. Milwaukee County residents have voted in support of dedicated public funding for parks, culture, and transit via an advisory referendum."

Chairwoman at the signing of the historic agreement between Milwaukee County, the War Memorial Center and the Milwaukee Art Museum.
A County Budget Built on Compromise

The Milwaukee County Board passed the 2014 Budget without raising the tax levy. The budget holds the line on taxes, and invests in public safety and mental health. This budget also funds deferred maintenance and will maintain and enhance many County services.

The Board approved most of the County Executive’s recommended budget. However, that proposal was unbalanced with several mistakes totaling $3 million. The Board fixed that budget hole without raising taxes.

The budget enhances public safety by expanding the City of Milwaukee ShotSpotter program. This tool allows law enforcement to quickly identify where a gunshot is fired near County parks. This agreement comes just one year after the City and County worked to share emergency 911 services. This budget also restores several sworn law enforcement positions.

The County Board received amazing input throughout the budget process through e-mail, phone calls or at one of several town hall meetings. The Board acted on that input and put together this budget. Now is the time to come together and move our County forward.

Dimitrijevic Amendment Keeps Open Noyes and Pulaski Parks Indoor Pools

Chairwoman Dimitrijevic is excited to announce a plan is in place to keep open the indoor pools at Pulaski and Noyes Park. The County Executive proposed demolishing the County’s only two public indoor pools and replacing them with a splash pad and a skate park. Chairwoman Dimitrijevic authored a budget amendment to keep open the pools, and ensure necessary improvements and maintenance are made. The Board passed this amendment unanimously.

This success was made possible with your help. Chairwoman Dimitrijevic received countless phone calls and e-mails from people asking to keep open the pools. The Chairwoman heard amazing stories at town hall meetings about how these pools help people stay healthy and how they’ve brought families together.

A special thank you to Mr. Stanley Kass of Brown Deer. Mr. Kass made a generous donation in memory of his late wife, Lee, who was a frequent swimmer at Noyes Park. Mr. Kass announced he will consider matching future donations, something he’s already done once.

More Improvements Coming to South Shore Beach

Improvements are coming to South Shore Beach as a result of an amendment Chairwoman Dimitrijevic added to the 2014 budget. Because of the amendment, we will have a beach groomer to clean the sand along the South Shore. The health of South Shore beach is so important to our community, and Chairwoman Dimitrijevic wants to do whatever she can to make sure the beach is clean and safe for everyone to use.

In addition to improving beach health, work will be done to reconstruct the South Shore Yacht Club parking lot. In 2014 we will go through the first planning and design phase to replace the current parking lot. The change is needed because right now water runoff is causing a pollution problem. By replacing the current pavement, we will reduce runoff and improve water quality.
Free Days at the Milwaukee Public Museum!

Milwaukee County residents will receive FREE general admission to the Milwaukee Public Museum on the first Thursday of every month through MPM’s new “Thank You Thursday” program beginning January 2, 2014. MPM has extended hours on Thursdays and will be open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.mpm.edu

Your Opinion Counts! Detach this survey and mail (or send an e-mail) to:

Milwaukee County Courthouse
ATTN: Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic
901 N. 9th Street, Room 201 • Milwaukee, WI 53233
(414) 278-4232 • marina.dimitrijevic@milwcnty.com

Name/Organization: ____________________________________________
Address/City/Zip: ______________________________________________
Home Phone: _________________________ E-mail: ____________________

Culture Survey Questions & Feedback

1. Do you support dedicated public funding for transit? ___Yes ___No ___Not sure
2. Have you been to a county museum and/or a county park in the last year? ___Yes ___No
3. Would you support additional public funding for museums and parks? ___Yes ___No ___Not sure
4. Have you attended an event at the BMO Harris Bradley Center in the last year? ___Yes ___No ___Not sure
5. Would you support public funding for a new arena? ___Yes ___No ___Not sure
6. Should companies that do business with Milwaukee County be required to pay their workers a living wage of $12.45 an hour? ___Yes ___No ___Not sure

Comments: ___________________________________________________