



13th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Willie Johnson, Jr.

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www.milwaukee.gov/johnson

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

CHAIRMAN

County Board Judiciary, Safety and
General Services Committee

Milwaukee County Disadvantaged Business
Enterprise Steering Committee

Learning for Life/Exploring
Three Harbors Council, BSA (Co-Chair)

MEMBER

County Board Finance and Audit Committee

Milwaukee County Pension Study Commission

Milwaukee County Commission for
Persons with Disabilities

Milwaukee Community Justice Council
Executive Committee
(Evidence Based Decision Making Policy Team)

Milwaukee County Local Emergency
Planning Committee

Wisconsin Counties Association Board of Directors
(Past President)

Wisconsin County Mutual Insurance Corporation
Board of Directors

Community Insurance Corporation
Board of Directors (Vice President)

Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare
Partnership Council

National Forum for Black Public Administrators

Economics Wisconsin Board of Directors

Dear Neighbor,

FALL 2017

I hope that you and your family are enjoying warm fall weather in Milwaukee! This is a beautiful time of year to enjoy our Milwaukee County Parks and take advantage of all the wonderful cultural events our city has to offer.

As someone who began my career as a social worker with Milwaukee County nearly 30 years ago, I have seen a lot of changes. The county now faces an annual structural deficit, which means that our "cost to continue" expenditures exceed our revenue. Like last year, this year our county executive proposed a \$60 wheel tax, along with increased fees, in order to balance his budget. You can read more about my position on the budget starting on page two.

As your representative on the Milwaukee County Board, I want to hear from you about how we can improve upon the services and amenities that the county provides and maintains. Recently, a group of concerned citizens reached out to me regarding unauthorized activity in one of our local parks that is damaging to the ecosystem and potentially dangerous to users. Read more about threats to Pleasant Valley Park starting on page two.

It continues to be my honor to serve as your Milwaukee County Supervisor. Please don't hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns related to county services, pending legislation, or other matters. I hope to see you soon in your neighborhood, or at the courthouse. My door is always open!

Sincerely,

Willie Johnson, Jr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor
District 13

*Supervisor Johnson speaking with
seniors at the Department on Aging
Visioning Session at Rose Senior Center.*



Be a hero, save a life, BE AN ORGAN DONOR

The Milwaukee County Board presented a citation to Municipal Judges Derek Mosley and JoAnn Eiring at its September meeting for their fearless advocacy of organ donation. There are 116,000 people waiting for a life-saving transplant. Every day 22 people die from the lack of available organs for transplant. To be listed on the Donor Registry, please go to: www.DonateLifeWisconsin.org



Protect Pleasant Valley Park

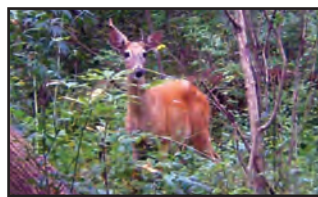
A group of constituents recently informed me of activity in one of our local parks that concerns me greatly. At a recent meeting of the Parks, Energy & Environment Committee, staff from the Milwaukee County Parks Department confirmed that illegal tree cutting and unauthorized mountain biking is occurring with regularity in Pleasant Valley Park, located along the west bank of the Milwaukee River, north of Locust St.

Like many of you, I view our County Parks as some of our most treasured public resources. At the invitation of the Milwaukee River Advocates Cooperative, I took a walking tour of the Pleasant Valley Park this summer. The park, which runs along the west bank of the Milwaukee River from Locust St. to Capitol Dr., is a beautiful area, and I was saddened to see the damage caused to this special place.

One of the greatest challenges of managing Milwaukee County's world class parks system is balancing the interests of different types of users. Occasionally certain trails are designated for use only by specific types of users, and other users are prohibited when particular activities could damage trails or habitat and infringe upon the ability of other users to enjoy the trails.



A view of the trail looking south along the west bank of the Milwaukee River.



Pleasant Valley is home to foxes, deer, snapping turtles, wild turkey, owls, snakes, rare migrating birds and other animals, as well as native plants including Mayapples, Trillium, Bloodroot, Solomon's Seal, False Rue Anemone, Forked Aster, and other at-risk native plants.



Signs like this one, indicating that mountain biking is not allowed on the trails in Pleasant Valley Park, have been removed by unidentified individuals.

**Images are provided courtesy of the Milwaukee River Advocates.*

I'm opposed to the cutting of more trails in Pleasant Valley Park, and I appreciate the efforts of the Milwaukee River Advocates Cooperative and the Riverwest Neighborhood Association to maintain the natural area in its current state. I plan to work with the Parks Department and Sheriff's Office to hold accountable those persons responsible for cutting trees and damaging trails. I am looking at additional steps we can take to protect this unique natural area, and would appreciate your input!

Structural Deficit Presents Tough Choices for 2018 Budget



I'm opposed to County Executive Chris Abele's proposal to increase the wheel tax from \$30 to \$60 for 2018. I'm also opposed to any budget cuts that would close parks and pools – those are scare tactics designed to make people believe the wheel tax can fund any county service. In fact, wheel tax revenue can only be used for transit and transportation related costs, like rebuilding county roads and bridges, and replacing aging buses.

Anticipating that he would reintroduce his \$60 wheel tax again this year, supervisors gave the county executive an opportunity to educate the public about his proposal by placing a referendum on the spring ballot. But Abele made no effort to convince voters to support his proposal, and even said before the vote that he would reintroduce his \$60 proposal regardless of the outcome.

Voters overwhelmingly said "no" to the \$60 wheel tax by a margin of 72%. Milwaukee residents already pay \$75 per vehicle to the State of Wisconsin, and another \$20 per vehicle to the City of Milwaukee.

Along with my colleagues, I urged the legislature to grant us the authority to adjust the wheel tax based on the age and value of the vehicle, a progressive measure that would have helped poor and working class families adjust to this new fee.

The legislature failed to give us that authority, or to increase the county's shared revenue that we receive from the state. Like the City of Milwaukee, the county sends more money to Madison than we get back in shared revenue. If the county received its fair share, this would go a long way to addressing our structural deficit.

Milwaukee County has limited tools for generating the revenue we need to address our structural deficit. Our sales tax is maxed out, and we can only increase property taxes by a relatively small amount each year. Services have been trimmed back, but we still have growing infrastructure costs, as well as increasing costs to maintain important cultural institutions like the Mitchell Park Domes, and hundreds of millions of dollars in deferred maintenance in our parks.

Rather than proposing a \$60 wheel tax, I would have liked to see our county executive use his considerable lobbying powers in Madison to fight for our fair share of revenue from the state. Instead, he chose to leave supervisors with the difficult choice of a dramatic wheel tax increase, or finding more savings. We can adopt a responsible budget that mixes limited reductions in our expenses and moderate increases in revenue, without resorting to a massive wheel tax increase.

Sup. Johnson's Co-Sponsored Legislation

I co-sponsored resolutions from April 2016 through December 2016 on the following subjects: developing a pilot program and a revolving loan program to provide financial assistance for the replacement of privately owned lead laterals, as well as the removal of lead paint in owner occupied homes, residential non-owner occupied homes and commercial buildings located north of Highland Ave., south of North Ave., west of MLK Dr. and east of 27th St.; authorizing youth programming services for the Office on African American Affairs; generating a pay scale which adjusts the county workforce minimum wage on an annual basis, establishing a minimum wage of \$15/hour for service, concession, lease, and financial assistance agreements publicly funded by the county by the year 2022; recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and urging community involvement to "Keep Us Safe"; opposing all forms of discrimination, and affirming Milwaukee County's commitment to value all people equally, regardless of race, sex, class, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, disability, age, ancestry or nationality, political or religious affiliation or creed; supporting the "Stepping Up" initiative, which aims to reduce the number of people with mental illness who are jailed; and recognizing the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day.

In addition, I have co-sponsored resolutions for 2017 on these issues: supporting equity in education, entrepreneurship, and economic opportunities for women of color; recognizing the month of April in 2017 and in each succeeding year as Sexual Assault Awareness Month; requesting and urging the Wisconsin State Legislature to create a nonpartisan process for Congressional and Legislative Redistricting Plans; creating a policy on the treatment of pregnant or postpartum persons in a Milwaukee County correctional facility; recognizing the City of Milwaukee's municipal identification card as a valid form of identification to establish residency related to Milwaukee County owned or supported institutions or programs; and recognizing the month of October in 2017 and in each succeeding year as Bullying Prevention Month.

2017 National Night Out



Supervisor Johnson with 5th District Captain Heier during the 2017 National Night Out. Thank you for coming out and participating in our 2017 National Night Out community building event, an effort to enhance the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community under positive circumstances. I look forward to seeing you all next year!



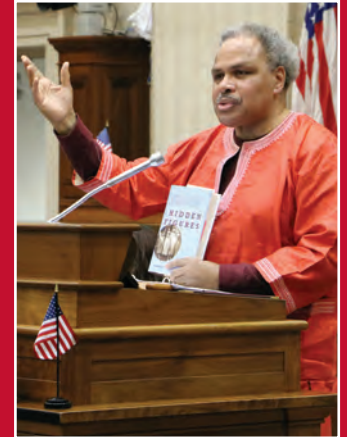
★ IMPACT 2-1-1 is a central access point for people in need. During times of personal crisis or community disaster, the free, confidential helpline and online resource directory make it easy for residents to get connected to information and assistance. Simply **dial 2-1-1**. If you want detailed information please go to: www.impactinc.org/impact-2-1-1

Black History Month at the Board



Above: Supervisors Moore Omokunde, Taylor, Mayo and Nicholson joined Supervisor Johnson at the Black History Month celebration during the February 2017 county board meeting.

Right: Supervisor Johnson speaking at the beginning of the county board meeting during Black History Month.



Energy Assistance

The Milwaukee County Energy Assistance Program is now available. Any household with a utility burden can apply for this one-time, annual benefit. Your benefit is based on your household's size, your household's income, and your utility usage. It's NOT based on whether or not you are behind on your bill or on how much you may owe.

Energy Assistance is not intended to cover your entire bill, but to help make those bills a little more affordable. Every household situation is different, but most households receive a benefit that covers one to two months of utility service. In most cases the energy assistance benefit is paid directly to your household's energy supplier.

Applying is Easy! Make an appointment or walk in to any of our sites. There are 6 sites across Milwaukee County for your convenience. All sites are on a bus line and are handicapped accessible.

Northwest - 4906 W. Fond du Lac Ave.
Downtown/Central - 728 N. James Lovell St.
West Allis - 6761 W. Greenfield Ave.
Southeast/Bay View - 2701 S. Chase Ave.
South - 5663 S. 27th St.
North - 6918 W. Brown Deer Rd.

You can apply any time between October 1, 2017 and May 15, 2018. Hours are: **Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Last applicant taken 30 minutes before closing and subject to availability. Closed on major holidays.

To schedule an appointment or for more information, call **270-4MKE (270-4653)** or go online to www.EnergyAssistanceMKE.org



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Milwaukee, WI 53233

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Supervisor Johnson Invites You To Enjoy Free Milwaukee County Attractions!

 <p>524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee (414) 257-5611 www.milwaueedomes.org</p> <p>Free on Mondays from 9:00 a.m. to Noon for Milwaukee County residents. Excludes major holidays.</p>	 <p>10001 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee (414) 256-5412 • www.milwaueezoo.org</p> <p>Family Free Days & Special Holidays 2017: 11/4, 12/2. 2018: 1/6, 2/3, 3/3, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day & New Year's Day.</p>
 <p>800 W. Wells St., Milwaukee (414) 278-2728 • www.mpm.edu</p> <p>Kohl's Thank You Thursdays: Free to all the first Thursday of every month. County residents get \$2 off every day.</p>	 <p>MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM 700 N. Art Museum Dr., Milwaukee (414) 224-3200 • www.mam.org</p> <p>Free the first Thursday of every month for all visitors, sponsored by Meijer.</p>



The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is excited to announce the launch of Polco, an innovative community engagement platform for neighbors to directly influence Milwaukee County's decision-making process! We have already started posting questions to the community that you can answer by going to <https://polco.us/milwaueecounty> and creating an account.

Service Guide for 13th District Milwaukee County Residents

County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr.....278-4233	Fraud Hotline.....93-FRAUD	District 13 Parks
Airports	House of Correction	Atkinson Triangle (936 W. Atkinson Ave.).....964-0064
Mitchell International Airport747-5300	General and Visiting Information.....427-4700	Carver Park (911 W. Brown St.)342-0215
Timmerman Airport461-3222	Jury Services	Estabrook Park (4400 N. Estabrook Dr.).....964-0064
Child Support Enforcement615-2593	General Information.....278-4468/278-4469	Gordon Park (2828 N. Humboldt Blvd.)962-8809
Clerk of Circuit Court.....278-5362	Reserve Juror Message985-6000	Kern Park (3614 N. Humboldt Blvd.)964-0064
County Clerk278-4067	Low Income Housing/Rent Assistance278-4894	Milwaukee River Parkway461-0839
County Executive.....278-4211	Marcus Center for the Performing Arts.....273-7121	Pleasant Valley (1229 E. Concordia Ave.)962-8809
County Treasurer278-4033	Marriage Licenses/Passports/DNR License... 278-4067	Rose Park (3045 N. Dr. ML King Dr.)342-0215
Courts	Medical Examiner.....223-1200	Milwaukee County Zoo771-3040
Civil Division (small & large claims).....278-4120	Mental Health Complex.....257-6995	Milwaukee Public Museum278-2702
Criminal Division278-4538	Admitting (Emergency).....257-7260	Office of Persons with Disabilities278-3932
Children's Court257-7700	Milwaukee Art Museum224-3200	Register in Probate.....278-4444
Department on Aging.....289-6874	Milwaukee County Historical Society273-8288	Register of Deeds.....278-4021
Dept. of Health & Human Services.....289-6877	Milwaukee County Parks	Transit System
District Attorney's Office	Boerner Botanical Gardens.....525-5600	Bus Routes/Schedules/Fares344-6711
John Chisholm278-4646	General Information.....257-7275	Customer Comments937-3218
Election Commission278-4060	Parks Hotline257-5100	Transit Plus343-1700
Emergency/Public Safety	Organized Sports.....257-8030	UW-Extension.....256-4600
Sheriff (non-emergency).....278-4700	Golf Reservations.....475-6222	Veterans Services.....266-1234
Sheriff (non-emergency).....278-4766	Golf Office257-8024	Victim/Witness Service
Burn Center Hotline (24 hours)272-2876		General Information-Felony.....278-4667
Emergency Management (24 hours)525-5770		City of Milwaukee
Suicide Prevention/Intervention		City Hall/Common Council.....286-2221
Mental Health Crisis.....257-7222		Night.....286-CITY (2489)