

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: May 19, 2025

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance *JOSEPH LAMERS*

Subject: From the Project Management Office, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance, providing an action report presenting the candidates selected by the Milwaukee County Youth Commission to represent Districts 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13, and 18 on the 2025 Milwaukee County Youth Commission, as well as an update about the activities of the Youth Commission.

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

At the time this report is being submitted, the Youth Commission has selected and confirmed the following candidates to represent their districts on the 2025 Milwaukee County Youth Commission and is seeking confirmation of these candidates by the Board of Supervisors:

District	Selected Candidate	Term
2	Victor Essoka	January 2-August 31, 2025
3	Augie Baum	September 1, 2024-August 31, 2026 (vacancy)
4	Kennedy Slaasted	January 2, 2025-August 31, 2026
5	Jhuablai Thao	January 2, 2025-August 31, 2026
9	Abhi Ghelani	January 2, 2025-August 31, 2026
10	Keith Neely	January 2-August 31, 2025
11	Ansh Paranjyia	January 2 - August 31, 2025
13	Kyree Dunn	January 2, 2025 - August 31, 2026
18	Eva Yang	January 2, 2025 - August 31, 2026

POLICY

This update is being provided pursuant to File 22-662, "To modify Chapter 106 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to reestablish the Milwaukee County Commission on Youth and align its priorities with Milwaukee County's mission and vision to achieve racial equity..."

In addition, the [2023 Adopted Budget](#) required, "Status updates, reports, and proposed resolutions relative to the work of the Commission on Youth and efforts to collaborate with intergovernmental partners shall be provided for review by the County Board when necessary [page 214]."

Wisconsin State Statutes:	N/A
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 106
Specific Adopted Budget:	2023
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	N/A
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	N/A

BACKGROUND

Youth Commission Update:

The 2025 Term Co-Chairs are:

- D'Mario Cockfield, Appointed by County Executive Crowley
- Marianna Taylor, Appointed by Chairwoman Nicholson

The 2025 Term Adult Advisors are:

- Nicolasa Alamilla, Appointed by the Milwaukee County Youth Commission
- Deon Canon, Appointed by Chairwoman Nicholson
- Sharlen Moore, Appointed by County Executive Crowley
- Nikki Todd, Re-appointed by County Executive Crowley
- Supervisor Kathleen Vincent, Re-appointed by Chairwoman Nicholson

In December 2024, the Board of Supervisors voted to [amend Chapter 106](#)- County Commission on Youth of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances (MCGO), to modify the term of office for youth commissioners to better align with the school calendar year. Due to this change, there are different terms in 2025 and 2026 for each district as we transition from the previous term dates of January 2-January 1. Applications for districts with the following term start dates have been open since March and will close on Friday, May 30, 2025:

- September 1, 2025;
- January 2, 2026; and
- September 1, 2026.

Since its last report to the Board of Supervisors in September 2024, the Youth Commission has engaged in the following activities:

- Presented at the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) 2024 Annual Conference (at the invitation of Chairwoman Nicholson)- September 23, 2024
- Harvest Fest at Sherman Park (at the invitation of Chairwoman Nicholson)- October 26, 2024
- Public Hearing for the 2025 Budget- October 28, 2024
- Honor Flight Welcome Home Celebration (at the invitation of Sup. Capriolo)- November 2, 2024
- Q4 Volunteer Opportunity at The Gathering- November 16, 2024
- 2024 Term Completion Ceremony- December 18, 2024
- 2025 Term Swearing-In Ceremony & Reception- January 15, 2025
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day on the North Shore event (at the invitation of Sup. O'Connor)- January 20, 2025
- State of the County Address Remarks (at the invitation of County Executive Crowley)- March 26, 2025
- Day of Advocacy- April 9, 2025

Members of the Milwaukee County Youth Commission were joined by delegates from their districts as they held their first Day of Advocacy. Almost 30 delegates met with

members of the Wisconsin State Legislature who represent Milwaukee County, Governor Evers' policy staff, and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) leaders to discuss policy proposals in the Youth Commission's three identified priority areas of youth homelessness, youth mental well-being, and youth civic engagement.

- 2025 Take a Child to Work Day- April 24, 2025
There were over 150 participants in the second annual Take a Child to Work Day event, held at Boerner Botanical Gardens, co-sponsored by the Youth Commission and Dept. of Human Resources. This year's theme, "Building a Strong Future," allowed participants to go behind the scenes of Milwaukee County's infrastructure, with access to 12 fleet vehicles, and engage in hands-on activities developed by 15 departments and offices.
- Released application for the 2025 "Excellence in Youth Impact Awards" to recognize three organizations for outstanding work in each of the Commission's three priority areas- April 30, 2025

In February 2025, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors added a position for Milwaukee County Youth Commission member to the City-County Advisory Board on Climate and Economic Equity, to be appointed by the County Board Chairperson.

Upcoming activities include:

- Pride Parade- June 8, 2025
- Juneteenth Jubilee Parade- June 19, 2025
- Q2 Volunteer Opportunity at The Gathering- June 21, 2025
- Summer Social & Teambuilding Event- TBD
- 2025 Completion Ceremony (1st of 2)- TBD

In April 2024, the Youth Commission experienced a staff transition. Nikki Todd, who helped to implement the Youth Commission in 2022 and has managed its operations since 2023, transitioned to a new role as Senior Policy Manager. Youth Commission operations will continue to be managed within the Project Management Office by Bess Earl, Project Manager, and Julia Balestrieri, Administrative Coordinator.

The resolution to re-establish the Milwaukee County Youth Commission was authored by Chairwoman Nicholson and County Executive David Crowley and co-sponsored by Supervisors Sequanna Taylor, Martin, Clancy, Vincent, and Burgelis. It was passed unanimously by both the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and the Board of Supervisors in May 2022.

Additional information related to the Milwaukee County Youth Commission is available at [County of Milwaukee | Milwaukee County | Youth Commission.](#)

Related File No's:	23-13
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	N/A
Previous Action Date(s):	5/15/22, 5/26/22, 11/28/22, 3/6/23, 5/8/23, 9/21/23, 12/21/23; 3/18/24; 7/8/24; 9/19/24

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The Milwaukee County Youth Commission aligns to the following strategic objectives:

- 1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government
The Youth Commission will increase the diversity of age and life experience at the

highest level of Milwaukee County government, providing a valuable perspective that is currently missing from decision-making processes.

1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government

The Youth Commission will help to make our legislative process more inclusive, especially since young people under the age of 18 are not allowed to participate in the voting process to choose our elected leaders.

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

The Youth Commission embodies the diversity of Milwaukee County, bringing together young people who will represent their respective districts, but will get to learn from and interact with their peers from other areas.

FISCAL EFFECT

Costs associated with the operations and program budget for the Milwaukee County Youth Commission have been approved in the 2025 Adopted Budget.

TERMS

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

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PREPARED BY:

Nichole Todd, Senior Policy Manager, Project Management Office, Office of Strategy Budget, & Performance

APPROVED BY:

Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget, & Performance

ATTACHMENTS:

RESOLUTION

FISCAL NOTE

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk