



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: June 7, 2016

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Support for County Board File No. 16-320

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I am happy to have the opportunity to sign this resolution and I appreciate that we continue to have a united front on unanimously supporting the mission of the Office on African American Affairs (OAAA).

I have had concerns about creating OAAA as a separate County department, which I laid out in my office's report to you earlier this year. That said, it is important that we work together to tackle Milwaukee's racial inequities with the urgency that this issue deserves. This resolution requests that I use the authority given solely to the County Executive by state law to create the Office on African American Affairs as a separate County department, wherein I appoint a Director whose appointment is subject to County Board confirmation. I am agreeable to this request and have put forward File No. 16-342, a resolution which creates the Office on African American Affairs as a separate department and authorizes the funding of that department. I'm hopeful that it'll earn the strong support of the Board.

As a department, the Office on African American Affairs will be accountable to the people of Milwaukee County through my direction and oversight as well as your support and budgeting authority. No County department, or elected official, is truly "autonomous." We are all accountable, directly or indirectly, to the people of Milwaukee County as we ought to be. The Office on African American Affairs will continue to seek input and direction from the people of Milwaukee County and I expect to be held fully accountable for its performance.

In File No. 16-342, I am asking you to fund the Office on African American Affairs prior to the appointment of a Director. I am conducting a national search for the Director position. Meanwhile, the Office on African American Affairs needs funding in order to move forward with its workforce development initiative, recruit staff, and demonstrate to potential candidates that the Office is moving forward as a priority of Milwaukee County government.

I thank you for your work on the Office on African American Affairs and I respectfully ask for your support of File No. 16-342, which operationalizes this resolution and officially creates and funds the Office on African American Affairs as a department.