

Judiciary



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

County Board
Chair

SEP - 4 2013

Referred

July 24, 2013

Jerome J. Heer, Milwaukee County Auditor
Milwaukee County Department of Audit
Milwaukee County City Campus, 9th Floor
2711 W. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

Dear Mr. Heer,

On July 6, 2013, the Milwaukee County Courthouse was threatened by an electrical fire, which resulted in the displacement of county employees and the disruption of county services. We appreciate the dedication of emergency personnel and county employees who have worked diligently so services in the Courthouse could be restored. We know there is still more work to be done.

We have a perfect opportunity, before we move too far away from the incident, to evaluate this emergency. During and after any emergency in the public or private sector, it is prudent to analyze the conditions that led to the incident and any process or policy utilized during and after the emergency. In addition, the public will want to know the financial cost of the incident and the associated clean-up costs, which are on-going.

As the Courthouse reopens and moves toward full functionality, an independent review of the causes of the fire and the ensuing response would serve the public well at this time. The scope of the review should be broad and should give credence to the effects of the crisis on service delivery. It is important to assess the reason for the incident, as well as the damages to the Courthouse and associated costs. It is equally important to assess our emergency response, safety issues, temporary relocation efforts, and any policies that could be enacted or modified to ensure future emergencies are handled safely and smoothly.

We would suggest that a financial and programmatic audit of the Courthouse fire incident would make sense. Please contact me to discuss this issue at your earliest convenience, so we may find the most effective manner to move forward with this evaluation.

Sincerely,

Marina Dimitrijevic
Chairwoman,
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

Michael Mayo, Sr.
Milwaukee County Supervisor,
District 7

cc: Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele
Scott Manske, Milwaukee County Comptroller
Don Tyler, Director, Department of Administrative Services