

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE

Inter-Office Communication

To: Board of Supervisors

From: Israel Ramón, Register of Deeds

Date: June 18th, 2020

Re: Informational Report – Status and Use of Free Birth Certificate Program

Background:

In its 2020 Adopted Budget Amendment - 1A001 (Org. Units 3400 Register of Deeds & 1800-1993 State Shared Taxes), the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors reauthorized the Free Birth Certificate Program to allow an additional 1,000 birth records for voting or youth employment to be distributed. The Register of Deeds was directed to continue to require that individuals seeking a free birth certificate complete and sign a form verifying that they meet the criteria for obtaining a free birth certificate. The Register of Deeds was requested to provide a report to the County Board of Supervisors no later than the July 2020 meeting cycle on the status and use of the program.

Birth Certificates Sold

2020	Voting	Youth Jobs	Total Sold	Remaining
January	42	23	65	935
February	26	34	60	875
March	18	23	41	834
April	0	0	0	834
May	0	0	0	834
June	0	0	0	834
Totals	86	80	166	834

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic

The Register of Deeds closed its lobby to the public on March 18th, 2020 due to the pandemic and its potential impact on the Office's statutory obligations. As a result, overall vital records requests dropped significantly as well as requests under the Free Birth

Certificate Program. We continue to process vital records, including free birth certificates, requests by mail, email and fax:

Register of Deeds Office
Vital Records
901 N. 9th Street, Room 103
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Email: RODVitalRecords@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Fax: (414) 223-1942

Budget Impact

The County Board of Supervisors authorized \$15,000 for the Free Birth Certificate Program. Reports and Funds Transfers are submitted biannually to the State Department of Administration.

Conclusion

The Register of Deeds Office is fully supportive of the Free Birth Certificate Program. Monthly reports are generated and made available to the County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors upon request. For further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at (414) 278-3083 or (414) 639-7887.

Respectfully submitted,

Israel "Issy" Ramón

Israel Ramón
Milwaukee County Register of Deeds
Signed by Electronic Communication