OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

CHRIS ABELE · COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: July 24, 2012

TO: Supervisor Mark Borkowski, Chair, Judiciary, Safety and General Services
            Committee

FROM: County Executive Chris Abele

SUBJECT: Informational Report Regarding the Milwaukee County Human Rights
            Commission

This memo is provided in response to the request for an informational report on the history of the Milwaukee County Human Rights Commission. In 1974, Milwaukee County created a county advisory commission on human rights. The commission's role was to receive reports on all matters concerning the equal rights of all persons within Milwaukee County and, after due deliberations and open hearings, advise the appropriate department or division of county government of the proper procedures for preserving the equal rights of persons as guaranteed by the law. To these ends, it was to advise the County Executive and County Board of Supervisor of pending or prospective legislation or executive orders. It was, also, to advise administrators concerning proper policies, and was to act as a liaison with community groups and organizations.

Around year 2000, the county took action to cease implementing the commission's activities. The ordinance that governs the commission is still in place, but not enforced. We believe this commission can serve a useful role in ensuring equity and equality in the affairs of our county, and are thus reviving its membership and activities.

County Executive Chris Abele has directed that, Per Chapter 51 section .02 of the Milwaukee County Code of Ordinances, the Human Rights Commission will resume with 7 members appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Board of Supervisors. Per the Ordinance, one member will be a member of the County Board and remainder will be residents of Milwaukee County. Citizens serve two-year terms on board.

Cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, County Board of Supervisors
       Janelle Jensen, Committee Clerk
       Jennifer Collins, Research Analyst