

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 14, 2025

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

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

Subject: From the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance, requesting confirmation of Milwaukee County Youth Commissioners to represent vacant supervisory districts and provide Youth Commission program updates.

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

The Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance (SBP) requests confirmation of the Milwaukee County Youth Commissioners to represent vacant districts 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16. This item also provides an update on the Milwaukee County Youth Commission program activities and accomplishments.

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

Per file [22-662](#) 106.03 – Selection of Commissioners, the "commission on youth will appoint from within its ranks a selection committee of not less than five (5) commissioners". Based on the criteria set in file 22-662, the selection committee unanimously recommended seven Youth Commissioners to fill the vacant supervisory districts and are now requested for confirmation by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors as outlined in Table A: Milwaukee County Youth Commissioners Requesting Board Confirmation.

Table A: Milwaukee County Youth Commissioners Requesting Board Confirmation

District	Selected Candidate	Term
2	Dallas Hortman-Garner	September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026
7	A'Zarriah Kelly	September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2027
10	Trinity Powell	September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2027
11	Sofia Linares	September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026
12	Elijah Sarsour	June 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026
14	Emilio Ramirez	September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2026
16	Joselyn Garcia-Molohua	September 1, 2025 - August 31, 2027

Program Updates

Youth Commissioners are responsible for attending monthly meetings as well as participating in one of two established standing committee meetings, which are the Advocacy and Community Engagement Committee and the Governance, Finance and Evaluation Committee. In addition, Youth Commissioners attend community events including Harvest Fest, volunteer, advocate for Milwaukee County programs, and update the Youth Commission bylaws. Below are Youth Commission program activities and accomplishments since June 1, 2025 (Table B: Youth Commission Program Activities & Accomplishments).

Table B: Youth Commission Program Activities & Accomplishments

District	Youth Commissioner	Activity/Accomplishment
Co-Chair	D'Mario Cockfield	Marched in the Juneteenth Parade; participated in July 2025 recruitment press conference at Tiefenthaler Park; provided public comment at the Annual Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget.
Co-Chair	Marianna Taylor	Marched in the Pride Parade; provided welcome remarks at the July 2025 recruitment press conference at Tiefenthaler Park.
1	Sarah Bruett	Served as Vice Chair of the Committee on Governance, Finance, and Evaluation; recognized Indigenous Peoples' Day at October Youth Commission meeting; attended Honor Flight Welcome Home Celebration.
2	Victor Essoka	Served as Second Vice Chair of the Committee on Governance, Finance, and Evaluation; volunteered at the Gathering's Running Rebels location by packing and serving meals for participants.
4	Kennedy Slaasted	Served as Communications Officer; participated in July 2025 recruitment press conference at Tiefenthaler Park; provided public comment at the Annual Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget.
5	Jhuablai Thao	Marched in the Pride Parade; volunteered at the Gathering's Running Rebels location by packing and serving meals for participants; participated in the July 2025 recruitment press conference at Tiefenthaler Park; provided public comment at the Annual Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget.

6	Brody Kaminski	Served as Vice Chair of the Committee on Community Engagement and Racial Justice Committee; marched in Juneteenth parade; created a resolution modifying the Youth Commission bylaws that solidified rules for virtual meeting attendance, as well as a resolution amending the bylaws by revising the standing committee name to the Advocacy and Community Engagement Committee, which were unanimously passed by the standing committee and full commission; supported Orientation Session for new Youth Commissioners.
7	Ezran Anastas	Provided public comment regarding the McGovern Senior Center development at Committee on Parks and Culture meeting.
8	Jayden Maholmes	Participated in July 2025 recruitment press conference at Tiefenthaler Park marched in the Pride Parade.
10	Trinity Powell	Attended Honor Flight Welcome Home Celebration.
11	Ansh Paranjyia	Served as Communications Officer; marched in the Juneteenth Parade.
13	Kyree Dunn	Marched in the Pride Parade; supported Orientation Session for new Youth Commissioners.
14	Benjamin Elko	Served as Chair of the Committee on Community Engagement and Racial Justice; created a resolution requiring Youth Commission press releases be issued in both English and Spanish, which were unanimously passed by the standing committee and full commission.
14	Emilio Ramirez	Provided public comment at the Annual Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget.
15	Sean Libal	Served as Chair of the Committee on Governance, Finance, and Evaluation; Participated in the July 2025 recruitment press conference at Tiefenthaler Park; attended Honor Flight Welcome Home Celebration.
17	Zenia Shaker	Served as Second Vice Chair of Committee on Community Engagement and Racial Justice.
18	Eva Vang	Served as Communications Officer; participated in July 2025 recruitment press conference at Tiefenthaler Park.

In addition, the following Youth Commissioners terms ended in July 2025 or will end in January 2026. The Milwaukee County Youth Commission and SBP thank the individuals for their service (Table C: Youth Commissioners that Completed Program). The Youth Commissioners are celebrated at a closing ceremony in which they receive a certification of completion and a proclamation highlighting their accomplishments.

Table C: Youth Commissioners that Completed Program

District	Youth Commissioner	Term
Co-Chair	D'Mario Cockfield	January 2, 2025 - January 1, 2026 (final of two terms)
Co-Chair	Marianna Taylor	January 2, 2024 - January 1, 2026 (final term)
1	Sarah Bruett	January 2, 2024 - January 1, 2026
2	Victor Essoka	January 2 - August 31, 2025 (final term)
6	Brody Kaminski	January 2, 2024 - January 1, 2026 (final term)
7	Ezran Anastas	January 2 - August 31, 2025 (final of two terms)
8	Jayden Maholmes	January 2, 2024 - January 1, 2026 (final term)
10	Keith Neely	January 2 - August 31, 2025 (final term)
11	Ansh Paranjya	January 2 - August 31, 2025 (final term)
14	Benjamin Elko	January 2 - August 31, 2025 (final of two terms)
16	Bradley Rhode	June 1, 2023 - April 30, 2025 (final term)
17	Zenia Shaker	January 2, 2024 - January 1, 2026 (final term)

2025 Remaining Activities

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and members of the public are invited to attend the closing ceremony December 17, 2025, starting at 5:30 PM to recognize the Youth Commissioners whose term ends in December. The ceremony will also recognize the 2025 Youth Commission operating partner, Safe & Sound, for their significant program contributions as well as the 2025 adult advisors. Further details will be posted on the [County Legislative Information Center](#) prior to the event.

In addition, the Youth Commission standing committees are finalizing action plans that include the mission of the committee, goals of the committee and outlining necessary activities to achieve the committee goals. As part of the annual budget, the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors approved funds for the Youth Commission to allocate to service providers and nonprofits. In December, the Youth Commission will approve up to \$35,000 of funds that advance the identified policy areas; youth experiencing housing instability, youth wellness, and civic engagement.

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

RECOMMENDATION

The Milwaukee County Youth Commission and SBP recommends the confirmation of the Milwaukee County Youth Commissioners to represent vacant districts 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 16.

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

Joe Lamers, Joseph.Lamers@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Ashley Adsit, Ashley.Adsit@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Bess Earl, Bess.Earl@milwaukeecountywi.gov

Julia Balestrieri, Julia.Balestrieri@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Ashley Adsit, Director of Project & Performance Management

Bess Earl, Project Manager

Julia Balestrieri, Administrative Coordinator

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Describe how the item aligns to the objectives in the strategic plan:

1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government

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

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities

APPROVED BY:

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

ATTACHMENTS:

RESOLUTION

FISCAL NOTE

PRESENTATION

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