



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
*Milwaukee County*  
CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: November 1, 2013

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: Veto of County Board File No. 13-652 related to the operation and regulation of taxicab service

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I am vetoing County Board File No. 13-652 pursuant to the authority granted to me by Article IV, Section 23(a) of the Wisconsin Constitution and Section 59.17(6) of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The County Board adopted a resolution on September 26, 2013 directing the County Executive to negotiate an Intergovernmental Agreement between the City of Milwaukee and the County "in order to transfer all operation and regulation of taxicab services to Milwaukee County."

I appreciate the intent of Supervisors Weishan and Stamper in attempting to improve the policy environment for the provision of taxicab service in Milwaukee County. I am also interested in intergovernmental cooperation and in exploring opportunities to advance shared goals more efficiently and effectively. I understand the Supervisors' concerns and, therefore, am committed to engaging in conversations with the City to explore the possibility and their interest in transferring this service.

The resolution, which directs me to negotiate with the City, is premature, particularly given competing priorities. The County currently does not provide licensing services and does not have existing capacity to do so. For example, the City has over 4 departments that play a role in the complex licensing process, including the Licensing Division, Treasurer's Office, Milwaukee Police Department, and Department of Public Works, among others.

More importantly, approval of this resolution would conflict with state law. The clear, plain language of the state statutes vests the authority to regulate and license taxicabs with cities, villages and towns. It is important that we execute our county government consistent with the clear spirit and plain language of the statutes.

I ask that Supervisors sustain this veto and allow the administration to work towards an agreement that will legally and practically work for Milwaukee County.