



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Milwaukee County

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: November 13, 2012

TO: The Honorable County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

SUBJECT: **PARTIAL VETO OF FILE NUMBER 12-788 (2013 BUDGET)**

Heading into the 2013 Budget process I had a simple goal: to continue to provide the critical services Milwaukee County residents rely on without unnecessarily burdening taxpayers. The Budget that I presented to you accomplishes that while decreasing our long-term structural deficit, moving forward on intergovernmental cooperation, and supporting changes to improve the level of performance of the County by rewarding employees with raises and a bonus program. I also address key County infrastructure needs.

I know the County Board, and in particular the Finance, Personnel and Audit Committee, worked hard reviewing my budget. I truly appreciate the debate surrounding my budget and the Supervisors' amendments.

Some of those amendments made the 2013 Budget stronger; however, some shifted the focus away from what I think the core goal of Milwaukee County Government is: providing services in a sustainable way.

I am vetoing the County Board's proposed \$3.95 million property tax increase and through my vetoes lowering taxes \$2.4 million.

You will see the individual vetoes below, but there are two main issues driving the tax hike that I ask Supervisors to reconsider: employee benefits and the Parks Patrol MOU.

Because I know employee benefits are important to a strong workforce, my veto presents a fair compromise to the Board's amendment, balancing your valid concerns with the need to address the County's structural deficit. I leave in \$1.7 million in lowered deductibles and prescription drug coverage, as well as your elimination of the employee performance bonus and reduced Cost of Living increase, but eliminate the funded FSA, a savings of \$3.6 million.

While I would have welcomed a thoughtful vetting by the Board of the MOU and how it could be improved, much of the discussion appeared instead to be politically driven. It is clear that this package was not voted down on its merits. Therefore, I am asking the Board to reconsider the MOU with the Milwaukee Police Department. The MOU saves taxpayers - in all the municipalities in the County -

\$1.5 million and, despite the rhetoric of some, will improve accountability public safety across the County.

I believe we have a lot more in common than has been portrayed by the media. I ask that you sustain the following vetoes and we can move forward on making sure Milwaukee County is strong in 2013 and in years to come.

I have exercised my veto authority as follows:

Veto # 1 – Outside Legal Services Funding
[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$50,000)]
Amendment 1A013

This amendment shifts \$50,000 in funding for outside legal services from the Litigation Reserve (Org Unit 1961) to the County Board (Org Unit 1000).

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing the Board's amendment because it violates Wisconsin State Statute, which grants Corporation Counsel the authority to notify the Board if they are unable to provide an opinion.

The Wisconsin Attorney General was asked to weigh in on this matter and released an opinion in 1984 clarifying that County Boards cannot retain private attorneys unless Corporation Counsel rules their office is unable to handle the legal request.

While I am unable to address this with my vetoes, this amendment is also problematic because maintaining flexibility in the Litigation Reserve Fund is important for the County.

Automated Contract Tracking Initiative
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1A038

This amendment appropriates \$55,363 within Community Business Development Partners for the purchase and implementation of web-based software to track contracts in real-time, generate automated reports, create mass notification for contract opportunities, maintain an active automatically updated directory, and allow real-time tracking of DBE goals and participation. This amendment also un-funds 1.0 FTE Certification Analyst for a cost savings of \$55,363.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am not vetoing this amendment. However, to be in compliance with Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations (Parts 23 and 26), the amendment's change in staffing will necessitate a resubmittal of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Plan which was submitted to the U.S. Department of Transportation in February, 2012. In addition, CBDP will need to work with procurement and IMSD to ensure compatibility.

Veto # 2 – Small Business Opportunity Initiative
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1A037

This amendment eliminates \$100,000 funded with Potawatomi revenue in appropriations for the Safe Alternatives for Youth (SAY) program in the Department of Health and Human Services and includes an appropriation of \$100,000 funded with Potawatomi revenue within the Office of Community Business Development Partners to establish a Micro Loan Program within the Small Business Opportunity Initiative.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

The goal of creating a revolving funding program for small business is admirable, which is why my proposed 2012 Budget included exactly that. The Board voted down my full plan in 2012, but we were still able to create a \$1 million loan fund that was recently funded by land sale proceeds.

I am vetoing this amendment because it unnecessarily duplicates the \$1 million loan program the County already offers. That will create confusion and redundancy with taxpayer dollars.

I am also vetoing the amendment because it defunds the SAY Program. While I agree with the Board that in these tough budget times we should have conversations about the County's role in continuing to fund social service programs like the SAY Program, cutting support to groups like the Boys and Girls Clubs, NAACP and La Causa in order to pay for a redundant loan program is not justifiable.

Veto # 3 – Outside Legal Counsel Procedures
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1A009

This amendment directs Corporation Counsel to develop a procedure that, at a minimum, incorporates the following:

- A maximum hourly fee cap and/or a process to obtain approval from the County Board for a waiver of the cap.
- An immediate notification of all County Board Supervisors whenever outside legal counsel is retained, accompanied by a written statement from Corporation Counsel why the case is not expected to exceed \$50,000.

This amendment also directs Corporation Counsel to submit a report to the County Board for review and approval by February 1, 2012, that describes the reformed process for selecting outside legal counsel.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing the amendment because it is inconsistent with MCGO 56.30, which already ensures all contracts over \$50,000 go through the County's RFP process and obtain Board approval. In addition, given that the County already receives substantially discounted rates from law firms, I am concerned that the effect of this amendment will interfere with the ability of Corporation Counsel to access the best expertise and protect the County's interests.

Veto # 4 – Claims Adjuster
[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$48,416)]
Amendment 1A046

This amendment denies the abolishment of 1.0 FTE Claims Adjuster within DAS-Risk Management for a total position cost of \$77,208, partially offset by a decrease in unemployment compensation of \$18,876.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$48,416.

I am vetoing the amendment that reinstates the Claims Adjuster position in the Risk Management Office.

The Director of Risk Management has indicated that three staff members can handle the office workload, including Worker's Compensation Claims. Taxpayers should not be in the business of funding positions that are not needed nor requested.

There was an issue raised at committee that this action could affect the County's self-insurance status. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development has assured Risk Management in writing that this is not the case.

Veto # 5 – Economic Development Director
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1A010

This amendment abolishes the position of Economic Development Director (Pay Range 901E) and creates a new position of Director of County Economic Development (Pay Range 901E) effective January 1, 2013. The amendment also modifies Milwaukee County General Ordinance 17.30(2) to reflect the new position title in the list of positions requiring County Board confirmation upon appointment.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing the Board's amendment that would abolish the position of the Economic Development Director and create the same position under a different title.

It is clear that this amendment is not in the best interest of Milwaukee County or its taxpayers. It is difficult to interpret the Board's action as anything but a political reprisal against Brian Taffora, the current Economic Development Director, who has not been able to move into Milwaukee County due to the deflated housing market. While Mr. Taffora has a residency waiver from the Human Resources Director, he continues to attempt to sell his house, but in this economic climate has not been able to find a buyer.

Not only does this amendment risk progress on economic development in Milwaukee County, but it is also an inappropriate use of the budget process.

In his short time in his position, Mr. Taffora has turned around economic development in the County, going from practically zero developments and jobs into thousands of jobs and millions of dollars of investment in place and on the horizon. Approving this amendment sends the wrong signal to businesses looking to expand in Milwaukee County and sends a bad message to current and prospective employees that legislators will abuse their power to harm employees and their families.

Veto # 6 – Transfer of Management of County Correctional Facility-South, Huber Program, Electronic Monitoring Program, and Inmate Medical and Mental Health.

[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]

Amendment 1A062

This amendment transfers management responsibility of the County Correctional Facility-South, Inmate Medical and Mental Health, Electronic Monitoring and Huber programs from the Sheriff to a newly-created department, effective April 1, 2013. The head of the new department would be a Superintendent of the House of Corrections, which would be appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the Board of Supervisors. The amendment funds or creates several positions in order to provide staff and management capacity at the facility. The amendment also creates a workgroup that will study all issues related to the management transfer (including shared services such as inmate transportation, commissary, laundry, etc.) and make recommendations on the implementation.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$384,263

I am partially vetoing this amendment to remove the April 1, 2013 start date.

Like the majority of the County Board, I believe we need a leadership change at the CCFS, but the change is too important to be driven by an arbitrary date.

My intent with this veto is to move forward judiciously in 2013. I recommend we move forward on searching for a candidate to take over at the CCFS and at the same time, work with the Sheriff to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will address how the transition will take place and how the Superintendent and Sheriff can work together. The many operational and shared service details for this transition require a planned and disciplined process.

Veto # 7 – Privatization of Inmate Property Rooms at County Correctional Facility South and Central

[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$121,618)]

Amendment 1A002

This amendment would reject outsourcing the operation of inmate property rooms at both the County Correctional Facility South and Central and would restore a total of 12.0 FTE positions of Stores Clerk at the two facilities.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$121,618.

I am partially vetoing the amendment that reverses the outsourcing of the Sheriff's Office Property Room at the CCFC and CCFS. The Sheriff has made it clear he believes using a private company is the best option to run the Property Rooms.

In difficult budget times we need to look for ways to save taxpayer dollars and by following the Sheriff's recommendation we will save \$121,618.

Veto # 8 – Prisoner Board-General Revenues
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$56,000]
Amendment 1A028

This amendment increases prisoner board revenues charged to the City of Milwaukee for municipal commitment and board charges by \$56,000 and requires the Office of the Sheriff and Office of the Corporation Counsel to work with the City of Milwaukee to negotiate a payment process for outstanding charges owed by the City to the County.

This amendment decreases tax levy by \$56,000.

I am vetoing this amendment because this matter needs to be referred to Corporation Counsel and the Comptroller to assess the implications of a 1965-Wisconsin Supreme Court ruling on allowable charges.

Veto # 9 – Memorandum of Understanding with the Milwaukee Police Department for Parks Patrol and Cellular 911 Communications Services
[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$1,526,267)]
Amendment 1A048

This amendment rejects part of the proposed three-year (2013-2015) Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Milwaukee Police Department (MPD), in which MPD would provide proactive law enforcement services in County parks within city limits, and would provide direct response to cellular 911 calls made within city limits. The amendment would reject the provision of law enforcement services in the parks, and would restore the related positions (including 25.0 Deputy Sheriff 1, 2.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff Sergeant, and 1.0 FTE Parking Checker-Hourly), other personnel and operating costs, and revenues within the Office of the Sheriff at a levy cost of \$1,526,267. The amendment would alter the provision related to cellular 911 services by limiting the timeframe to one year (2013) instead of the proposed three.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$1,526,267.

I am partially vetoing the Board's amendment that discards a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County, City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Police Department to improve law enforcement, security and cellular 911 communications.

The amendment decreases public safety, is costly to taxpayers, does not guarantee Parks Patrols and sends the message to other units of government that we are not willing to collaboratively consider shared services. Not only does this amendment add over \$1.5 million to the tax levy, but it also does not provide any guarantee that the funding will be used to institute the proactive patrolling of the parks that is not currently occurring. In addition, this amendment unfairly punishes the suburban communities by denying them the opportunity to get some money for the work they are already doing in the parks, while also denying their taxpayers substantial tax savings.

The Budget departments at the County, City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Police Department all agree this saves money while improving public safety and accountability. The County Comptroller has found it will save at least \$1.5 million in 2013 and the independent and highly respected Public Policy Forum urged the County to move forward with shared services.

The Milwaukee Police Department has made it clear they have a strong plan under this MOU to provide proactive parks patrols and share data with the County, both functions that do not currently occur. This plan has also received strong support from the Mayor of Milwaukee, the majority of the Milwaukee Common Council and suburban mayors and police chiefs from all across Milwaukee County.

The standalone 911 plan that the board is considering in place of the full MOU is important, but without the parks and lakefront element, taxpayers, particularly in the suburbs, do not see the significant savings. In addition, without a multi-year commitment, the amendment puts the City of Milwaukee in a very difficult situation with regard to staffing this function.

I urge the Board to reconsider their stance on this proposal. The proposal in the proposed budget benefits taxpayers and opens the door for more intergovernmental cooperation in the future.

Veto # 10 – Airport Security

[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]

Amendment 1A005

This amendment would restore 11.0 FTE Deputy Sheriff 1 positions that were included in the Airport Security program area in the Sheriff's 2013 Request. The active salary, social security and fringe benefit cost of the positions (\$967,890) would be charged to airlines, passengers and other customers at General Mitchell International Airport.

This amendment has no tax levy impact, but increases charges to General Mitchell International Airport by \$967,890.

I am vetoing the amendment to reflect the actual security needs at GMIA.

While there is no direct tax levy impact, this amendment would be paid for by increased fees to airlines and passengers. At a time when airport traffic is down and we are trying to attract more airlines and passengers, we should not be needlessly adding to their cost.

I am also concerned because these Deputy positions historically have not spent all of their time at the Airport. Non-airport time will be billed to the tax levy, meaning this amendment is likely budgeting a levy deficit for the Sheriff.

Veto # 11 – DAS-Facilities Management Assessment Team

[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]

Amendment 1A032

This amendment includes narrative acknowledging the County's Long Range Strategic Plan Steering Committee and related facilities planning resolution adopted in March, 2011. The amendment also directs that various reports to be submitted to the Transportation, Public Work, & Transit Committee (TPWT) by both a "Team" and an "Assessment Team." The various reports include: a report on the strategic downsizing of County holdings, "Team" status reports, a comprehensive facilities plan for select County properties, a report on the full make-up of the Assessment Team, and the feasibility of a separate Courthouse complex plan (including review of a New Huber Facility in 2013). The amendment also directs that TPWT develop a strategic facilities plan in time for the 2014 budget and that TPWT will provide oversight (as needed) to the Team based on its progress.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing this amendment for the following reasons:

- It is not clear if the amendment is referring to the CBRE consultant or if it is referring to the County Assessment Team. In either case, the language is not clear and leads to confusion.
- If the TPWT committee wishes to know the status of the current work being done by CBRE, they can request that DAS-Facilities Management give an update at Committee.
- The Assessment Team could not provide an "alternate recommendations report" due to: a.) These are new positions that would need to be filled beginning in 2013 and would therefore not have the time to complete a report by April 2013; b.) The Assessment Team does not have the skill-set to provide the kind of report (i.e. downsizing of facilities) as directed by this amendment.
- The "make-up" of the County Assessment Team (as included in the 2013 Recommended Budget) consists of 1 Architect, 2 Heating & Equipment Mechanics and 1 Electrical Mechanic. The function of this team is to provide structural assessments for the County's existing facilities for repair and maintenance deficiencies.
- The skill-set make-up of the Assessment Team does not have the capacity, nor was it intended to perform, space planning analysis and planning/design functions related to construction of new County-owned facilities. It is unlikely the Assessment Team could perform the work as directed in paragraph 6 of this amendment.

*Of note, the amendment has the wrong year (2012); it should be 2013 as that is the year stated in the 2013 Recommended Budget.

Inmate Medical and Mental Health
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1A017

This amendment rejects the proposed outsourcing of inmate medical and mental health programs. It would restore all related positions (approximately 117.0 FTE), would fund 1.0 FTE Program Administrator position, provides \$33,216 in funding for the reallocation of the Medical Director and Mental Health Director positions that was approved in the September 2012 Board Cycle, provides \$200,000 in additional salary costs to assist with the recruitment of the latter two positions. The amendment also transfers \$2,000,000 in funding from Employee Fringe Benefits (Org Unit 1950) and Debt Service (Org Unit 9960), that was recommended for use to partially cash finance the refunding of Pension Obligation Bonds, to create a new capital project to replace the existing Electronic Medical Records system in the Inmate Medical and Mental Health unit.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$114,944.

I am not vetoing this amendment because going back to the status quo does not help anyone, but I urge the Board to take a closer look at this plan before moving forward. We all agree on the desired outcome, better care for inmates, but I'm worried this plan does not get us there in the most disciplined manner.

I propose the Board and my office reach out to the Sheriff to find a solution everyone agrees upon. This dialogue should include reconsideration of a partnership with DHHS that achieves the shared goal of better care in a responsible and sustainable way, as well as compliance with the Christensen consent decree.

I am concerned that with the lack of discipline in determining the appropriate source of funding for EMR. There is no denying the County needs to move forward on an EMR solution, but we should do so in a deliberative manner.

Veto # 12 – Courthouse Food Services Initiative
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1A041

This amendment directs DAS-Facilities Management to begin negotiations with Milwaukee Area Technical College to provide culinary and food services at the Courthouse. This amendment also directs DAS-Facilities Management to provide a report for the Judiciary, Safety, and General Services Committee and the Transportation, Public Works, and Transit Committee in the March 2013 committee cycle on costs/revenue associated and potential start dates for MATC to provide culinary and food services.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing the Board's amendment directing DAS-Facilities Management to begin negotiations with Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) to provide culinary and food services in the Courthouse.

While I am not opposed to the idea of moving forward with a new food service vendor, this amendment crosses the line into management. If the Board wants to look at different vendors to provide food services to the Courthouse, we can initiate an RFP process. MATC could be included in this process and could be awarded the contract, however awarding a single source contract outside the RFP process is a concern and may even violate the Board's own Ordinance. Moreover, it is not clear whether MATC has the interest or capacity to take over this service; allowing them to respond to an RFP if interested will ensure that moving forward is in everyone's best interest.

Veto # 13 – Community Support Program- Downtown
[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$397,569)]
Amendment 1A022

This amendment rejects the outsourcing of the Community Support Program (CSP) - Downtown. Instead, this service will continue to be provided by County employees.

The amendment restores 10.5 FTE (21.0 FTE annualized) for a salary, social security, and fringe benefit cost of \$877,318 including:

- 1.0 FTE Office Supp Asst 2
- 1.0 FTE –RC–Office Supp Asst
- .50 FTE RN Pool
- 2.0 FTE Comm Service Nurse (PR18N)
- .50 FTE Adv Prac Nurse Prescriber-Pool
- .50 FTE Adv Prac Nurse Prescriber
- .50 FTE BH Staff Psychiatrist
- 4.0 FTE Cert Occ Therapy Asst
- 6.0 FTE Occupational Therapist
- 1.0 FTE Comm Supp Prog Coord
- 3.0 FTE Psych Soc Wkr
- 1.0 FTE Psych Soc Wkr CSP

Other expenditures related to the operation of the CSP are also increased by \$28,580, offset by an expenditure reduction of \$270,000 previously related to the purchase of additional community slots. This amendment also increases revenue by \$238,329.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$397,569.

Moving services into the community is a main facet of the mental health redesign process. Outsourcing CSP is in line with this objective while also saving significant taxpayer dollars.

Accordingly, I have partially vetoed this amendment to reduce funding for the following positions and other related costs for the operation of the CSP by \$905,898, while providing necessary funding in the amount of \$270,000 to purchase additional community slots.

- ☐ 1.0 FTE Office Supp Asst 2
- ☐ 1.0 FTE –RC–Office Supp Asst 2
- ☐ .50 FTE RN Pool
- ☐ 2.0 FTE Comm Service Nurse (PR18N)
- ☐ .50 FTE Adv Prac Nurse Prescriber-Pool
- ☐ .50 FTE Adv Prac Nurse Prescriber
- ☐ .50 FTE BH Staff Psychiatrist
- ☐ 4.0 FTE Cert Occ Therapy Asst
- ☐ 6.0 FTE Occupational Therapist
- ☐ 1.0 FTE Comm Supp Prog Coord
- ☐ 3.0 FTE Psych Soc Wkr
- ☐ 1.0 FTE Psych Soc Wkr CSP

Revenues are correspondingly reduced by \$238,329 therefore reducing tax levy by \$397,569.

Veto # 14 – EMS Subsidy

[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$500,000)]

Amendment 1A036

This amendment increases the EMS subsidy paid to specific Milwaukee County municipalities by \$500,000 to \$2,000,000.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$500,000.

I am partially vetoing this amendment to put the EMS subsidy back to \$1.5 million. Professional staff spent months negotiating a four-year performance-based agreement that this amendment, as well as side negotiations, put at risk. The proposal in my budget provides the EMS program with stability moving forward.

**Veto # 15 – AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin
[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$100,000)]
Amendment 1A047**

This amendment provides an appropriation of \$100,000 for a purchase of service contract with the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW). This appropriation also requires matching contributions from other local government entities.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$100,000.

I am vetoing this amendment.

HIV is a serious problem in our community, especially among young men of color. I appreciate the social and economic impacts of this serious public health threat on Milwaukee County. ARCW has been a leader in fighting the HIV epidemic in Milwaukee County and I would like to thank them for their work.

In these difficult budget times we need to first ensure that we are able to provide critical internal County services at the highest quality level without added burden on taxpayers. This amendment creates such a burden.

Furthermore, there are so many great nonprofits that provide critical services in Milwaukee County. Providing this funding to ARCW would set a precedent that would be difficult to explain to other nonprofits that may seek County funding.

**Veto # 16 – War Memorial Appropriation
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1C014**

This amendment creates a separate unit account to hold the \$212,500 allocated to Milwaukee Art Museum Direct Funding and appropriates an additional \$212,500 for a total of \$425,000 in designated funding. The amendment provides for the War Memorial Center and Milwaukee Art Museum to receive an equal share of the designated fund to be released contingent upon both organizations entering into a written agreement realigning operational and budgetary relationships and ratification of said agreement by the War Memorial Corporation Board. Failure to accomplish both components of

the above contingency clause by June 30, 2013 will result in the \$425,000 balance of held funds being transferred to Milwaukee County contingency fund.

This amendment increases tax levy by \$212,500.

I am partially vetoing this amendment because there is legal concern that making the operational funding to the Milwaukee Art Museum contingent on an agreement would violate the lease agreement.

Veto # 17 – Beer Garden Concessions
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1A003

This amendment directs the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture to prepare a request for proposals (RFP) to solicit interest in operating a beer garden concession at various Park locations and recommend up to two proposals in response to the RFP – one on the west or northwest side, and one on the south side – and to submit an agreement under terms and conditions similar to the vendor agreement entered into in 2012, for approval by the County Board.

This amendment directs that all revenues generated in 2013 as a result of entering into any such agreement(s) be placed into a newly created Parks Amenities Matching Fund to address repairs or enhancements of qualified existing park facilities and amenities under criteria established for the Fund. This amendment also creates a new Park Amenities Matching Fund that is funded \$250,000 of land sale revenue.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing this amendment because it budgets revenues that may not be realized and the amendment potentially redirects revenues to wealthy neighborhoods over lower income areas.

While creating an incentive for private investment in our parks is certainly worthwhile, this fund has the potential to effectively reward parks groups and neighborhoods that have the means to raise funds while leaving poorer areas out in the cold. As County Executive, I cherish all of our parks and think they all should receive the funding when we can provide it. This fund, as proposed, is contrary to the core equity that I believe the County should stand for; a belief I stood by in my proposed budget with my neglected Parks Plan.

By irresponsibly budgeting for land sale revenue in 2013, we are setting the County up in a situation where we create a deficit if those land sales do not materialize, particularly if we end up with a vacancy in the Economic Development Division. It is this type of budgeting in the past that has gotten Milwaukee County into financial problems.

The Parks Department has already been planning to move forward on two additional Beer Gardens and will appropriately bring reports to the Board in 2013.

Veto # 18 – Authorizing a Study of an On-Site Health Clinic
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1C004

This amendment authorizes the Employee Benefits Workgroup to study the merits of creating an on-site health clinic for employees, retirees and dependents. The study is also to evaluate the potential location of a clinic, including whether the Behavioral Health Division offers opportunities to co-locate a facility that would minimize start-up costs.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am partially vetoing this amendment to direct professional staff to study the merits of an on-site health clinic.

Veto # 19 – Increasing Funding for an Employee Wellness Program
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$44,000]
Amendment 1C013

This amendment increases expenditures from \$250,000 to \$950,000 for implementing and administering an employee wellness program. The amendment uses one-time funding from the County's Debt Service Reserve of \$625,000 to fund ongoing programmatic costs. The amendment does not identify future ongoing funding sources for the program. The program also relies upon \$144,000 of revenues charged to County employees. General County Debt Service by increasing the contribution from the Debt Service Reserve by \$625,000.

This amendment decreases tax levy by \$44,000.

I am partially vetoing this plan so that the County can move forward on our shared goal of a meaningful employee wellness plan, but in a more efficient and cost effective way. This veto will fund the implementation and administration of a wellness plan without using one-time money from the debt service fund to pay for it.

The veto will also put nearly \$600,000 back into the debt service fund.

Veto # 20 – Increase Funding for Employee Benefits, Eliminating Employee Cost of Living Increase and Employee Pay Incentive Program, Eliminating Position Authority in Various Departments and Re-estimate of County Sales Tax Proceeds
[Levy Change from Board Action: (\$3,691,672)]
Amendment 1C010

This amendment reduced anticipated healthcare expenses by \$4,450,000 to reflect a decrease in anticipated healthcare costs in 2013 based on 2012 projected year-end results and approximately 100 fewer enrollments based on position actions in the 2013 Budget. This number results in tax levy savings of approximately \$3,693,500 after factoring revenue offsets. This amendment also eliminates the second Cost of Living increase of 1.5% slated for pay period 24; eliminates funding for the Total Rewards Program, eliminates position authority in various departments and re-estimates County sales tax revenues. Savings from these measures are used to finance \$3,691,672 of employer funded Flex Spending Account contributions as well as lower prescription drug co-pays from 3 time retail to 2.5 times retail and modify health insurance deductibles.

This amendment decreases tax levy by \$224,067.

I am partially vetoing this amendment to strike a strong compromise that acknowledges the Board's concerns about health care costs with taxpayers concerns about rising taxes.

My veto keeps the Board's \$1.7 million additions in lower deductibles and prescription costs in place, but removes the funded FSA, a tax levy savings of \$3.6 million. Additionally, eliminating the FSA has a far more favorable impact on the fiscal sustainability of the County.

In addition, I have modified our approach in 2013 towards implementing the long range, strategic and financial planning for the County because of the denial of two critical DAS positions.

While the amendment does not provide a mechanism for me to change this estimate, I also have serious concerns about the risk of disregarding the 2013 healthcare cost estimate from the actuary.

Veto # 21 – Capital Improvement Project Selection Process
[Levy Change from Board Action: \$0]
Amendment 1B002

This amendment creates a Capital Improvements Committee (Committee) that will evaluate, based on criteria that it will establish all capital projects to be included in future capital budgets. The amendment directs the Committee to submit a five-year capital improvements plan to the County Board and the County Executive each year for review and adoption in conjunction with the annual budget. Additionally, the Committee will submit to the Department of Administrative Services-Administration and Fiscal Affairs Division and to the County Board, an evaluation of each capital budget recommended by county departments, agencies and offices, including ratings, prioritized rankings, financing, and how each project serves to implement the five-year capital improvements plan. The amendment also directs that the composition and duties of the Capital Improvements Committee will be codified in a County Ordinance submitted for County Board approval.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing this amendment because it infringes on my statutory budget authority.

Veto # 22 – Public Art
[Change from Board Action: (\$331,216)]
Amendment 1B010

This amendment creates a special Capital Public Art appropriation of \$50,552 for non-Airport capital projects to be financed by general obligation bonds and \$280,664 for Airport-related capital projects to be financed by Airport bonds.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing this amendment because it increases irresponsible spending on a public art program by over \$330,000.

Public art is very important to me, which is why I presented a strong plan in my proposed budget that would not have relied on taxpayer dollars and would have set up a public – private partnership to create a strong bond for future projects.

In these difficult budget times, we need to first ensure that we are able to provide critical County services without added burden on taxpayers. Further, there is a plethora of deferred maintenance projects that the County must prioritize over a public art program. This amendment creates a burden of \$330,000 on taxpayers for a non-critical need.

Veto # 23 – Moody Pool Renovations Capital Project

[Change from Board Action: \$0]

Amendment 1B008

This amendment changes the scope of Capital Project WP191 by denying the demolition of the indoor pool structure and adjacent wading pool and denying the installation of the following amenities: an outdoor splash pad with a small playground, a 3000 square foot community building, an open air picnic structure, lit parkways, a Helios exercise station, and improved green space for gatherings and field sports. This amendment authorizes the 2011 appropriation of \$2,038,622 for Moody Pool to be used to complete Phase 1 of the renovations and developments of a 3-year scoped plan to fully restore the indoor pool facility in 2013. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$8,000,000, which assumes the remaining \$6,000,000 to be appropriated in years 2014 and 2015.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am partially vetoing this amendment because it unnecessarily commits the County to spend millions of dollars in capital and future maintenance costs.

The Moody Park pool was closed in 2002 because of low attendance and the high cost to keep it open. In the 2013 budget, I highlighted a plan to overhaul and improve Moody Park, as well as several other neglected parks in Milwaukee.

My Moody Park plan will include the demolition of the indoor pool structure and adjacent wading pool. After demolition is complete the following amenities will be installed: an outdoor splash pad with a small playground, a 3000 square foot community building, an open air picnic structure, lit parkways, a Helios exercise station, and improved green space for gatherings and field sports. The project will also include reconstruction of the parking lot and relocation of the lit basketball courts. Plantings will also be provided to buffer active areas in the park from abutting neighbors and space will be set aside for a community garden. The connections to both the Auer Avenue School and the COA Goldin Center will be improved, while access to parking will be moved from the adjacent alley to increase visibility. This is a strong plan that will benefit the community and represents the direction the County should be moving in.

Veto # 24 – Bus Driver Protection Shields

[Change from Board Action: (\$745,000)]

Amendment 1B007

This amendment creates a capital project to retrofit 326 Milwaukee County Transit busses with bus driver protector shields. Shield costs including installation are projected at \$2,285 each. The federal share covers 80% of costs, with a 20% matching local share.

This amendment has no tax levy impact.

I am vetoing this amendment because upon review with the Comptroller Office, the project is not bond eligible, as the unit cost (including installation) is below the capitalization cost of \$2,500 per unit.

As this is not a bondable project, the \$149,000 matching component would have to be paid with tax levy or another cash source.

Veto # 25 – Tax Levy
File Number - 12-788 (2013 Budget)

This amendment increases property taxes by \$3,950,360 to \$279,321,196.

To reflect the vetoes above, I have vetoed Final 2013 Property Tax Levy for 2013 General County Purposes from \$279,321,196 to \$272,985,654 a decrease of \$6,335,542.


Chris Abele
Milwaukee County Executive