

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46

(ITEM) A resolution by Supervisors Weddle, Broderick, Rainey, and Johnson, Jr., creating the Milwaukee County Father Assisted Community Transition (FACT) Task Force to assist incarcerated fathers in their transition back into the community and into their children’s lives, by recommending adoption of the following:

A RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, in the 2010 United States Census, Wisconsin had the highest percentage of incarcerated black men in the nation, with one out of every eight black men of working age behind bars; and

WHEREAS, according to a 2010 study by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, more than half of African American men in their thirties, living in Milwaukee County, had served time in prison; and

WHEREAS, more than half of state prisoners and almost two-thirds of prisoners in federal penitentiaries in 2007 had children under the age of 18, which translates into 1.7 million children with a parent in prison; and

WHEREAS, a number of studies have shown that children of incarcerated parents are more likely to have behavioral problems, drop out of school, engage in delinquency, experience issues with substance abuse, and subsequently be incarcerated themselves; and

WHEREAS, although the Milwaukee County House of Correction offers many initiatives that address concerns of incarcerated fathers such as Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse counseling, General Educational Development education and testing, anger management counseling, parenting classes, and job training, most of the programming only happens while the father is incarcerated and does not follow the father as he transitions back into the community and his children’s lives; and

WHEREAS, once a black father is released from jail or prison in Wisconsin, he faces a multitude of barriers including an unemployment rate of 27.7% in the City of Milwaukee, a lack of affordable housing in Milwaukee County, a poverty rate for black males that is nearly quadruple Wisconsin’s rate, and a homicide rate that has tripled in the last year in the City of Milwaukee; and

WHEREAS, disadvantages are exponentially compounded and add to the pressures fathers face when they are applying to the workforce or filling out rental applications and have to check the box that states they have a criminal history; and

WHEREAS, in order to address these issues in a comprehensive way, it is necessary to receive input from all stakeholders to create recommendations to improve outcomes for fathers and children; and

47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
70
71
72
73
74
75
76
77
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93

WHEREAS, the Committee on Judiciary, Safety, and General Services, at its meeting of June 11, 2015, recommended adoption of this resolution (vote 7-0); now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Milwaukee County Father Assisted Community Transition (FACT) Task Force is hereby created and will begin meeting on a regular basis no later than September 2015; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the FACT Task Force will be made up of nine individuals selected by the Chairperson of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors (County Board); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the FACT Task Force shall be comprised of at least one individual from each of the following groups: recently released fathers, Milwaukee County government, Milwaukee County House of Correction, Wisconsin Department of Correction, City of Milwaukee Housing Authority, mental health professionals with Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) treatment experience, and employment and/or job creation entities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the FACT Task Force shall create a comprehensive plan to assist fathers who are in or transitioning out of corrections, which should include the following objectives: housing options, job skills training, personal assessments, AODA counseling and treatment plans, anger management classes, mandatory parenting classes, financial counseling (child support), and education initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the FACT Task Force should investigate the possibility of allowing incarcerated fathers to rehab foreclosed and abandoned properties in Milwaukee County with the potential to eventually purchase or rent the property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the FACT Task Force should also research projects in other cities that have improved outcomes for incarcerated fathers transitioning back into the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board will be responsible for managing the FACT Task Force and providing meeting space; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the FACT Task Force shall report back to the County Board in the March 2016 committee cycle with a final report detailing a plan for improving outcomes for incarcerated fathers.