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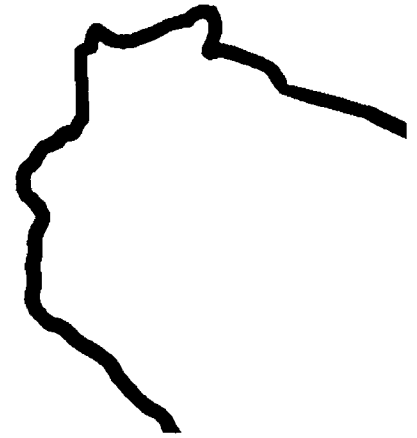
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STATE OF WISCONSIN

## FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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November 4, 2019

TO: Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Chairman James "Luigi" Schmitt, Committee on Finance and Audit  
Chairman Anthony Staskunas, Committee on Judiciary, Safety and General Services

FROM: Chief Judge Maxine Aldridge White

RE: The First Judicial District Judges Opposition to the House of Correction Proposal to Close  
Dorms and Expand Electronic Monitoring

Dear Mr. Chairmen,

I am writing this letter to summarize our history with the House of Correction's ("HOC") proposal to expand Electronic Monitoring ("EM") and close several dorms, and I write to specifically object to the proposed closure of HOC dorms and expansion of EM as defined and submitted in HOC budget documents and its October 29, 2019 Amendment.

First, we were only recently notified in September 2019 of the HOC's potential shift in policy as it related to the HOC's EM program. Once notified, we met with Superintendent Hafemann and representatives of our stakeholder group including Judges, DA, Public Defender and Sheriff's Office to discuss the details of HOC's EM program and available data concerning the EM program to date. Thereafter, we all agreed that the best approach to this policy proposal was to convene our Evidence-Based Decision Making Committee ("EBDM"). On September 15, 2019, the EBDM Committee met to examine the use of EM on a wide scale basis in an evidence based, data driven way. On October 1, the EBDM team sent a data request to Superintendent Hafemann, who agreed to compile data for us. To date we have only received preliminary information. Without comprehensive data and analysis we cannot support the expansion of EM. We also cannot support the closure of any dormitories until such time as the data is analyzed and an evidence-based conclusion reached about the efficacy of expanding the EM program.

In conclusion, I am respectfully requesting that the Board and Committees include the following in the record and convey it to your members:

- (1) The First Judicial District Judges object to the House of Correction's proposed policy and plans to expand Electronic Monitoring and close dorms without first assembling and sharing data which follows and supports best practices in the industry and promotes public safety in our communities.
- (2) The First judicial District Judges stand firm with other justice stakeholders' (including District Attorney John Chisholm and Regional Manager-State Public Defender Tom Reed) agreement to activate and utilize the Milwaukee Community Justice Council's (MCJC) Evidence-Based Decision Making Committee (comprised of members from multiple partner agencies) to review, examine and provide in-


depth analysis of all relevant data from the House of Correction on its current Electronic Monitoring population, policies and compliance rates.

- (3) The First Judicial District Judges recommend that amendment 1A010, Org Unit 4300, dated October 29, 2019, **BE FURTHER AMENDED to eliminate the closure of any dorms until such time as the data sufficiently supports the expansion of Electronic Monitoring consistent with best practices and public safety.**

As each of you has so graciously and previously acknowledged to me in my various appearances before your Court Committees, our Milwaukee Judiciary has led, implemented and used transformational programs, including our therapeutic courts (Adult Drug Treatment Court, Family Drug Treatment Court, Veterans Court, Mental Health Court and Healthy Infant Court) and other front-end and post-conviction measures to support those in our community who have committed wrongs and are working hard to restore community trust and support for themselves and their families. As constitutional officers, we believe that it is our obligation to make this decision with as much information as possible. What we propose to do in this case is exactly how we have successfully undertaken so many rehabilitative and strategic enterprises in the past. That is, we approach the development and expansion of polices surrounding broad changes, such as those proposed for the HOC and its EM program. We will then discuss the implications of the data, the allocation of responsibilities and shifting of tasks, sharing implementation plans and weighing staff support and consider other resources identified by our justice partners.

If you have questions or require more information, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Hon. Maxine Aldridge White  
Chief Judge

CC: Judges- First Judicial District, Milwaukee County  
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
County Executive Chris Abele  
Superintendent Michael Hafemann  
Milwaukee County Sheriff Earnell Lucas and Chief Deputy Denita Ball  
Regional Manager, State Public Defender Tom Reed  
Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm  
Director, Milwaukee Community Justice Council, Mandy Potapenko