



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

# *Milwaukee County*

CHRIS ABELE • COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: October 24, 2011

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

**RE: Veto of County Board File No. RES 11-595 on Proposed Bus Shelter**

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I am vetoing County Board File No. RES-11-595 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 Sept. 29, 2011, to allocate \$50,000 from Project W0950 Public Art Program fund to help pay for construction of a \$150,000 bus shelter on the corner of S. Kinnickinnic and W. Lincoln Avenues. Per this resolution, the county contribution to the bus shelter would use some of the funds previously allocated for a Courthouse public art project.

When I previously announced the cancellation of this art project, I was clear that although I strongly support public art, the County's dire fiscal situation dictated that these funds would be better directed toward the County's increasing deferred maintenance backlog.

To that end, I have recommended that \$720,000 formally allocated to the Public Art Program be used for two specific projects. The first recommendation is to allocate \$475,000 to upgrade 25 of the County's underground fuel storage tanks. The second recommendation is to allocate \$245,000 for replacement of two pedestrian bridges in Grant Park. These projects have been on the critical deferred maintenance list based on recommendation from department heads and the Department of Administrative Services.

Like many of you, I have long supported the arts. But given the county's \$55 million deficit, high debt burden, moratorium on borrowing and major deferred maintenance needs, I cannot justify spending taxpayer money on a public art project at this time. Milwaukee County must use its limited infrastructure dollars to deal with its most pressing deferred maintenance needs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Abele".

Chris Abele, County Executive