



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DATE: July 13, 2015

TO: The Honorable Milwaukee Board of Supervisors

FROM: Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive

RE: County Board File No. 15-380 on a resolution 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

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I am signing County Board File No. 15-380. Since taking office, reforming the criminal justice system in a way that makes the system fairer, more efficient, and more effective has been a priority of mine. I take pride in the strides we have made over the last few years to improve programming at our House of Correction, which we believe has a direct and positive impact on recidivism rates. I have also been a supporter of improved programming and evidence-based practices in our Courts system, particularly by investing in the Courts' Universal Screening program that has successfully reformed bail practices.

I am also proud to be a member of the Milwaukee Community Justice Council's Executive Committee, where major stakeholders who influence the criminal justice system interact on a regular basis, share and analyze data, and collaborate on initiatives. We have an established track record of breaking down siloes and bringing together a broad collection of agencies and organizations that are dedicated to improving the criminal justice system. Most recently, we were able to obtain a grant from the MacArthur Foundation to reduce racial disparities in our justice system as well as reduce our jail population.

I invite the new Milwaukee County Father Assisted Community Transition Task Force to work with the Community Justice Council and other organizations that are dedicated to improving the reentry of returning offenders as well as the community at large through criminal justice reform. The issue of justice system reform is one that needs to be addressed from all angles, and the FACT Task Force will bring a fresh and valuable perspective to the effort. There is much work to do, and I know that we can accomplish a lot when we work together on this issue.