



Milwaukee County Meeting Minutes

Milwaukee County Youth Commission Committee on Governance, Finance, & Evaluation

*Chair- Sean Libal (15th); 1st Vice Chair- Sarah Bruett (1st); 2nd Vice Chair- Victor Essoka (2nd);
Members- D'Mario Cockfield (Co-Chair), Jhuablai Thao (5th), Ezran Anastas (7th), Jayden Maholmes (8th),
Abhi Ghelani (9th), Keith Neely, Jr. (10th), and Kyree Dunn (13th).*

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

5:30 PM

Room 203-R & Microsoft Teams

HYBRID MEETING

HYBRID MEETING: This meeting will be held in Room 203-R and live-streamed on the County Legislative Information Center: [Milwaukee County - Milwaukee County Youth Commission \(legistar.com\)](https://legistar.com)

CALL TO ORDER: 6:10 PM

PUBLIC COMMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

This meeting is being conducted in a hybrid format. In addition to in-person attendance in Room 203-R, per Section 1.01(d) of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances, this meeting is also being conducted remotely via Microsoft Teams.

Anyone who would like to speak to Committee members during a hybrid meeting is welcome to provide public comment by:

- Filling out a Public Comment Card in Room 203-R, or
- Visiting: milwaukee.gov/PublicComment and following the instructions provided to participate via Microsoft Teams.

Individuals may submit a written eComment via the County Legislative Information Center (CLIC) at: <https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com>, upon publication of a committee agenda.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Anastas; Cockfield; Dunn; Ghelani; Maholmes; Neely; Thao; Libal; Bruett; Essoka

1. Confirmation of the selected candidate to serve on the 2025 Milwaukee County Youth Commission for the vacancy in District 12 (Action Item)

Background: Individuals who apply for 2025 term vacant districts will be scored by the members of the Youth Commission Leadership Committee. In cases where a member of the Leadership Committee knows an applicant personally, the Youth Commissioner(s) will recuse themselves from voting. This action to change the scoring from the Committee on Governance, Finance, and Evaluation to the Leadership Committee per the authority provided to the Co-Chairs to make decisions regarding the application process between meetings.

Proposed: The Youth Commission Leadership Committee recommends the following candidate for approval by the Committee on Governance, Finance, Evaluation.

District 12: Elijah Sarsour

Commissioner Dunn: I move; to approve this item

2nd. Commissioner Ghelani

Chair: Maholmes: Any questions:

Q1. Cockfield:

2. Can you tell us about your experience before the commission, and achievements related to the commission and what we do?

A. Thank you for the opportunity to join you all today at the Day of Advocacy: Which was an amazing opportunity. As it relates to community service I have over 250 hours of community service and over 100 hours with my church, I've served my church for over 15 years since I was born. I have conducted community clean-ups. I am in over 28 extra curriculum activities which include the Harvard research scholars, where I created a 3500 page research paper regarding sedated anastomosis, in children, adolescents, and adults; in terms of advocacy in general I am a founder and leader of the Multi-culture club at my school as the Captain of Student council and leader of the chapels, my school is a Christian non-denomination based school, so I control what we talk about at those chapels.

3. Can you tell me a little bit about specifically what attributes from being president of your congressional debate team and from Captain of your student council how can those skills transfer over to the youth commissioners?

a. Immediately I already had experience from the Congressional debate so these types of fast-paced environment as well as the parliamentary procedures, which I am very familiar with and have previous experience with; in terms of being captain for student council; I learned how to support and serve my community by doing concessions and other similar events for my school. I think that specifically the congressional debate I developed the listening skills I need and formality with parliamentary procedures to address this program

4. What other issues do you see that the youth commission could tackle that were not included in what we already talked about today in Madison?

a. One thing that comes to mind recidivism and that is the number of prisoners that goes back to prison after being released and in Milwaukee specifically after a 9 year period 87% of prisoners went back to prison for committing a crime or had a felony. I think this is something we should address seeing how high it is in Milwaukee and say it's a concern statistic that we should take steps to advocate for the youth, it will be interesting to see how we can advocate for reduction in recidivism in Milwaukee.

Chair: any other commissioners have any questions?

Commissioner Anastas Question:

1. What do you do for fun or in your free time?

- a. I'm so very evolved in I'm into serving my community, mojouraity of my free time is spending time with my family and extra curriculum activities which is not a lot of free time.

Chair: Anyone else?

Commissioner Neely:

Question: Besides the impact you want to leave what skills personally do you want to gain by being a youth commissioner?

- A. One thing I want to gain is having sympathy and being able to have compassion for the people in Milwaukee. One thing that I noticed is that even with mentor of the day there's often a negative statement associated with things, when talking with youth in Milwaukee. Milwaukee is often seen as the city beyond repair and seeing these issues I want to be able to sympathies with other youth and being able to address these issues and serve in a similar environment where I can connect with the youth and address these issues and advocate together.

Chair: Commissioner Ghelani

Question:

- 1. You do a whole bunch of extra curriculums which is great helping your community and clubs and stuff like that my question to you is like how can you make sure that you, as you said you are really business, how can you make sure that you make time for the Milwaukee youth commissioner, and ensure that you make it to the meetings or like try your best?
 - A. One thing that I have always worked on was my time management, since 6th grade, 6th grade was my first pre-college program and I have been doing 20 a year ever since. In terms of prioritizing this I plan to prioritize youth commission if I am admitted because this is something that I really want to make sense for advocating for so if I am admitted to the program I plan to prioritize this over my extra curriculum activities.

Chair: Call the roll please:

All in favor say Aye: Anastas, Cockfield, Dunn, Ghelani, Maholmes, Neely, Thao, Libal, Bruett, Essoka: Aye

All those against: 0

10 Aye

0 No

Motion pass welcome new Commissioner: Elijah Sarsour

Chair recognizes Ms. Julia

Ms. Julia-Elijah you are still subject to confirmation by the whole youth commissioners I will invite you to that meeting, however you are not required to come okay.

5. Action Plan Update (Information Only)

- 4/9/25: Day of Advocacy- Congratulations!
- Microgrants
- Evaluation of Milwaukee County youth-serving programs

Chair: Recognizes Ms. Julia

Ms. Julia gave words of encouragement to the commissioners: Also, the grant is on hold will notify commissioners when more information comes in:

6. Take a Child to Workday event reminder (Information Only)

- Thursday, April 24, 2025, from 9:30 AM-1:30 PM
 - Also need assistance with setting up at 8 AM and cleanup until 2:30 PM
- Boerner Botanical Gardens, 9400 Boerner Dr, Hales Corners, WI 53130
- Please RSVP ASAP (and thank you if you already did)

Ms. Julia updated please RSVP we need a head count:

7. Update from Youth Commission Operating Partner Safe & Sound about targeted recruitment for upcoming 2025-2026 vacancies in districts 6, 14, 16 (September 1, 2025, term start date), 1, and 17 (January 2, 2026, term start date) (Information Only)

Ms. Teneen gave update, SS has Neighborhood organizers who will be assisting during our outreach this summer to get applicantes for upcoming youth commissioner openings.

8. Spring Retreat approaching on Saturday, April 26, 2025, from 11 AM-2 PM (Discussion)

- Please RSVP ASAP – attendance is very important
- Safe & Sound and Milwaukee County staff are planning the retreat
- Feedback requested for the teambuilding/strategy session

Ms. Julia provided updates: spoke about bounding activities as well as lunch will be served at noon setup will be at 11:45AM Thanks to our partners Ms. Teneen working with Jeremy from the county with the activities for the day, can't wait to see the ideas.

9. Open Forum (Time Permitting)

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn: Commissioner Essoka move to adjourn Commissioner Cockfield 2nd.

All in favor: 10 Ayes

All opposed: 0

Meeting adjourn at 6:43 PM

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation requests:

ADA accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, 278-3932 (voice) or 711 (TRS), upon receipt of this notice.