

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Inter-Office Communication

Date: November 8, 2023

To: Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

From: Joe Lamers, Director, Office of Strategy, Budget & Performance

Subject: From the Project Management Office, Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance, and the Co-Chairpersons, Milwaukee County Commission on Youth, providing an action report presenting the individuals selected by the Milwaukee County Youth Commission to represent the 1st, 5th, 6th, 10th, and 13th Districts on the Milwaukee County Youth Commission in 2024, as well as an update about the activities of the Youth Commission.

File Type: Action Report

REQUEST

At the time this report is being submitted, the Youth Commission has selected five applicants to represent the 1st, 5th, 6th, 10th, and 13th Districts on the Milwaukee County Youth Commission in 2024 and is seeking confirmation of these applicants by the Board of Supervisors:

District	Selected Candidate	Term
1	Sarah Bruett (Age 14 as of 1/1/24)	January 2, 2024- January 1, 2026
3	No eligible applicants- vacancy	N/A
5	Ramaro Hopkins (Age 17 as of 1/1/24)	January 2, 2024- January 1, 2025
6	Brody Kaminski (Age 16 as of 1/1/24)	January 2, 2024- January 1, 2026
8	No applicants- vacancy	N/A
10	Daniel Damon (Age 17 as of 1/1/24)	January 2, 2024- January 1, 2025
11	No eligible applicants- vacancy	N/A
13	D'Mario Cockfield- <i>Current Commissioner</i> (Age 16 as of 1/1/24)	January 2, 2024-January 1, 2026
17	No eligible applicants- vacancy	N/A

There was extensive recruitment for the open districts from September 1-29, 2023, through schools; community organizations; County Board Supervisors (who posted in newsletters, etc.); the Milwaukee County website; social media posts by the Youth

Commission, County Executive Crowley, and Chairwoman Nicholson; a media advisory announcement; and a press conference held by the Youth Commission.

We received 32 applications for the nine open districts in 2024. Three districts had five or more applications (6th, 10th, and 13th); three districts had no eligible applicants due to residency verification (3rd, 11th, and 17th) and one district had no applicants (8th). Of the remaining applications, eleven (34%) were for the wrong district, seven (22%) of which were for seats that are not open in 2024.

We developed a plan for targeted recruitment in the districts that will have vacancies as of January 1, 2024, with a goal to have all seats filled and confirmed by March 31, 2024. In addition, we changed the recruitment and application timeline to open in May of the previous year for the following year to allow for increased awareness and applications.

County Executive David Crowley has appointed Loren Muwonge to represent him as his Co-Chair representative in 2024. Loren has served as the Youth Commissioner representing the 2nd District since January of 2023. She will succeed current Co-Chair Aaron Lee, who is a senior and will be graduating in May of 2024.

Since its last report to the Board of Supervisors, the Youth Commission has taken the following actions:

- Identified its priority areas to include:
 - Ending gun violence
 - Ending youth homelessness
 - Improving youth civic participation/voting, and
 - Increasing access to mental wellness.
- Created a plan for the \$50,000 appropriation for program-related funds in the CEX's proposed 2024 budget;
- Formed ad hoc committees to develop action plans for its two standing committees;
- Filled a vacancy by confirming a Youth Commissioner to represent the 16th District;
- Endorsed the Milwaukee County Climate Action 2050 Plan;
- Added a Facebook social media page to reach a wider audience;
- Held its first press conference; and
- Drafted its 2023 Annual Report (available on January 1, 2024).

The following offices/departments have presented to the Youth Commission since the last report: Office of Corporation Counsel (September), Office of Equity, Office of Sustainability, and Milwaukee Department of Transportation (October). The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) is scheduled to present to the Commission in November.

The Youth Commission is seeking a fifth volunteer Adult Advisor; the application is available on the Youth Commission website and is open until January 31, 2024.

In addition to their regular meetings, the Commissioners have participated in the following events, not previously noted:

- 414 Trust Youth Kickball Tournament on August 17
- 2024 Milwaukee County Budget Public Hearing on October 30
- Sherman Park Harvest Fest on October 28

Upcoming events include:

- Nature hike and s'mores in Grant Park in November
- Two volunteer events during the holidays in November and December (TBD)
- Team building/retreat at the South Shore Pavilion on April 20, 2024

Members of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors are invited to attend the last meeting of the 2023 term on December 20, 2023, which will include a completion ceremony, and the first meeting of the 2024 term on January 24, 2024, which will include a reception and swearing-in ceremony.

All information related to the Milwaukee County Youth Commission is available at [County of Milwaukee | Milwaukee County | Youth Commission.](#)

POLICY

This update is being provided pursuant to File 22-662, “To modify Chapter 106 of the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances to reestablish the Milwaukee County Commission on Youth and align its priorities with Milwaukee County’s mission and vision to achieve racial equity...”

In addition, the [2023 Adopted Budget](#) required, “Status updates, reports, and proposed resolutions relative to the work of the Commission on Youth and efforts to collaborate with intergovernmental partners shall be provided for review by the County Board when necessary.” (page 214)

Wisconsin State Statutes:	N/A
Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances:	Chapter 106
Specific Adopted Budget:	2023
Specific Adopted Budget Amendment:	N/A
Specific Adopted Capital Project:	N/A

BACKGROUND

The resolution to re-establish the Milwaukee County Youth Commission was authored by Chairwoman Nicholson and County Executive David Crowley and co-sponsored by Supervisors Sequanna Taylor, Martin, Clancy, Vincent, and Burgelis. It was passed unanimously by both the Committee on Intergovernmental Relations and the Board of Supervisors in May of 2022.

Related File No's:	23-13
Associated File No's (Including Transfer Packets):	N/A
Previous Action Date(s):	5/15/22, 5/26/22, 11/28/22, 3/6/23, 5/8/23, 9/21/23

ALIGNMENT TO STRATEGIC PLAN

The Milwaukee County Youth Commission aligns to the following strategic objectives:

1A: Reflect the full diversity of the County at every level of County government
The Youth Commission will increase the diversity of age and life experience at the highest level of Milwaukee County government, providing a valuable perspective that is currently missing from decision-making processes.

1B: Create and nurture an inclusive culture across County government
The Youth Commission will help to make our legislative process more inclusive, especially since young people under the age of 18 are not allowed to participate in the voting process to choose our elected leaders.

3C: Dismantle barriers to diverse and inclusive communities
The Youth Commission embodies the diversity of Milwaukee County, bringing together young people who will represent their respective districts, but will get to learn from and interact with their peers from other areas.

FISCAL EFFECT

Costs associated with the implementation of the Milwaukee County Youth Commission have been approved in the 2023 Adopted Budget.

TERMS

N/A

VIRTUAL MEETING INVITES

Joe Lamers, Joseph.Lamers@milwaukeecountywi.gov
Ashley Adsit, Ashley.Adsit@milwaukeecountywi.gov
Nichole Todd, Nichole.Todd@milwaukeecountywi.gov
Timothy Schabo, Tim.Schabo@milwaukeecountywi.gov
Ariel Lopez, Ariel.Lopez@milwaukeecountywi.gov
Bree Bzdawka, Bree.Bzdawka@milwaukeecountywi.gov

PREPARED BY:

Nichole Todd, Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office of Strategy Budget, & Performance

APPROVED BY:

Joe Lamers
Director, Office of Strategy, Budget, & Performance

ATTACHMENTS:

[Milwaukee County Resolution/Ordinance 22-662 Re-establishment of the Youth Commission](#)

[Milwaukee County - Meeting of Committee on Intergovernmental Relations on 5/17/2022 at 1:30 PM \(legistar.com\)](#)

[Milwaukee County - Meeting of Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors on 5/26/2022 at 9:30 AM \(legistar.com\)](#)

cc: Kelly Bablitch, Chief of Staff, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Janelle M. Jensen, Legislative Services Division Manager, Office of the County Clerk