

Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

December 10, 2015

The Honorable Maxine A. White Chief Judge, District 1 Milwaukee County Clerk of Circuit Court 901 N 9th St., Room 609 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chief Judge White,

As legislators representing the people of Milwaukee County, we write to you expressing our deep concern regarding the disturbing events and information reported about the Wisconsin Department of Corrections juvenile detention facilities, namely, Lincoln Hills School for Boys and Copper Lake School (for girls). News reports released within the last few days indicate an ongoing John Doe probe is investigating a number of potential crimes at Lincoln Hills School for Boys, including physical abuse of a child, second-degree sexual assault, and victim and witness intimidation. Additionally, there is a report of an attempted suicide by a girl residing at Copper Lake School. This information is shocking and raises grave concerns about the safety, health, and welfare of the young people residing in these facilities.

Milwaukee County has a number of juveniles currently housed in these two correctional facilities, and there is little information available from the State of Wisconsin regarding the charges being investigated. In the hope of protecting future juveniles, we respectfully request that Milwaukee County Judges refrain from sending additional juveniles to these facilities until the investigation is complete and all concerns and safety issues are resolved.

We know you share our concerns and look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Members of the Milwaukee County Committee on Finance, Personnel, and Audit