

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE: June 9, 2020

TO: The Hon. Marcelia Nicholson, Chairwoman,
Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Nicole W. Stickler, Legislative Liaison

SUBJECT: Update on Status of Issues Related to Government Affairs

Local

Delinquent Property Tax Penalty & Interest Waiver – As a result of the Board of Supervisors action during the last cycle to approve a resolution waiving the interest and penalties for delinquent property taxpayers, a number of municipalities have begun taking action to enact waivers for property owners within their jurisdictions.

State:

Governor Evers this month announced that \$200 million of the state's \$1.9 billion share of Coronavirus Relief Funds authorized by the CARES Act would be earmarked for every town, municipality, county and tribe in the State of Wisconsin. The funds will be distributed by a formula that is largely population-based, but no jurisdiction will receive less than \$5,000. Milwaukee County is eligible for \$15 million under the formula and funds may be drawn down from the State for reimbursement of direct expenses incurred as a result of the County's response to the public health pandemic.

Funds must be drawn down by the County by October 31, 2020 and are subject to the approval of the Wisconsin Department of Administration.

The Department of Administration yesterday met via conference call with Wisconsin county officials to discuss its plan for the procedure for jurisdictions to access the reimbursement funds and shared that they intend for a website portal to be functional to receive applications from jurisdictions next week. Pursuant to the information shared yesterday by the Department of Administration the first installment reimbursements may be issued by the first half of July.

Federal:

Congress and the Administration continue to consider the next steps of any future economic relief package. The House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act late last month containing \$3 trillion in relief in a number of sectors including \$875 billion for state and local governments. The legislation is not expected to be taken up in the Senate. The U.S. Senate has also seen interest among its members to consider an additional relief package with the introduction of the bipartisan State and Municipal Assistance for Recovery and Transition (SMART) Act. The legislation directs \$500 billion in direct aid to state and local governments. Additionally, Majority Leader McConnell's office has indicated that it is preparing the framework for a majority proposal that could be revealed later this month. No action on legislation is expected until after the Independence Day break and it is possible that additional federal action will wait until after the August recess.

Closing

I will report monthly through this file to provide the most timely information on developments to public policy discussions impacting Milwaukee County at the federal, state and local level. If you have any questions or wish to have additional staff support for discussions with Milwaukee County's government partners, please don't hesitate to reach out. I am available by email at - nicole.stickler@milwaukeecountywi.gov or via telephone at: 414-278-4992.