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ECJ – NEWS 10 Twelfth Edition

Chairman

Health and Human Needs

Combined Community Services
Board

Vision for Vliet Task Force

Milwaukee County Committees

Finance and Audit

Personnel

Memberships

National Associations of Counties
(NACo)

National Organization of Black
County Officials

Milwaukee County Friends of
Africa, Inc.

Community Involvement

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Back-
to-School Festival Board, Founder

Holy Redeemer Institutional
Church of God in Christ, Member



Dear Friends,

Happy Autumn Everyone! Autumn is surely in the air and that signifies a change in the season. For local governments and our constituents it also signifies that it is time to knuckle down and get with the budget. Well maybe it is old age or seniority, but every year you find all of the naysayer's worried about the budget, and I usually say "let the County Executive give us the budget and we will work from there." Why? Because I truly believe in the words that I speak "**Faith, Hope and Harmony.**"

Faith, Hope and Harmony

As you know that is how I end my letters because I know for us to progress in this world we have to have faith...you must believe in a better day; we have to have hope....because we know that with hard work we will do what we have to do; and lastly harmony...even the worst of times people and organizations can come together for the greater good.

I smile because we sometimes get criticized because we do not always see eye to eye! That is nothing new.... Milwaukee County is no different than many other bodies of government...ask yourself these questions:

- **Does the Senate and Congress always agree with the President, do they always see eye to eye?**
- **Does the State Assembly and the Governor support the same pieces of legislation?**
- **Do all Democrats think alike?**
- **Do all women elected officials vote the same way?**

Well this country's Bill of Rights, Constitution and any constitutional amendments was built on people respectfully disagreeing and rolling their sleeves up to work for the greater good.

I believe the key word is "**RESPECT.**" There is nothing wrong with disagreeing as long as it is respectful. Yes, at the Milwaukee County Board we do not always agree with each other or the County Executive or the Judges, but we do respectfully disagree and we have done our best to make it work for the greater good. Many times we hear from those who say freeze my property taxes, lower my property taxes, but those same individuals want to have picnics in the park without the weeds being up to their knees. They want services for the elderly or programs for their children...and you know what... you cannot have it both ways.

The housing boom that is going on in Milwaukee in the Park East Corridor in the third ward signifies to me that people do appreciate the services of Milwaukee County. They appreciate that we have a first time juvenile offenders program; they appreciate that we have services to help the seniors stay in their homes; they appreciate that we have a great alcohol and drug treatment programs, but it is never enough. I have never seen such great pressure on any other level of government than Milwaukee County. At times I think the media proclaims various months to say let's bash Milwaukee County. Here at Milwaukee County we have a lot of good stories to share, we have an incredible work force that work hard! We have a lot of positive stories and programs that are for the greater good!

We have some good things happening in Milwaukee County and we must continue to share the "good news." We will work on the 2007 budget, we will not always agree on everything, but we will keep decorum as we respectfully agree or disagree. So I say all of that to say this, we get the budget on September 28th from County Executive Walker and we will work from there. If I agree or disagree with whomever, I will always carry my message with respect and decorum and hold tight to my beliefs of living and working life with **"Faith, Hope and Harmony." You Be Blessed!**

Beth