





November 4, 2014

Department on Aging

Stephanie Sue Stein Director (414)289-5950

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

Viola "Vi" Hawkins Chairperson

Alvin C. Hill, Jr. Vice Chair

Debra J. Jupka Secretary

Steve F. Taylor County Supervisor

Maria Castrejon-Pérez Patsy Delgado Bob Haase Gwen T. Jackson Commissioner Emeritus Lynnea Katz-Petted Mary Kepler Fred Knueppel Sylvan Leabman Gary Mikolajczyk Nengmay S. Vang Johnny C. White, Jr. Barbara Wyatt Sibley

County Board Chair Marina Dimitrijevic Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Chairwoman Dimitrejevic:

On November 3rd, 2014, the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Executive Committee and Advocacy Committee both voted unanimously to oppose last week's quick passage of a Milwaukee County Board Finance Committee budget amendment that would provide "free" bus service to county seniors and people with disabilities.

It is deeply disappointing that no one on the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging (and its committees and workgroups) was consulted about this proposal. As you know from your many years of service on our Commission, our members are appointed by the County Executive and approved by you and your colleagues to be the voice of older adults in Milwaukee County, This proposal would impact the 109,133 seniors 65+ in Milwaukee County, and the fact that no one consulted with us at any point shows disrespect for the Commission on Aging and the legislative process in general.

We also oppose this budget amendment because it is based on inaccurate information. The budget amendment states that other cities have implemented senior fare programs; in fact, Chicago greatly scaled back their program in September 2011 after a study found it cost as much as \$116 million per year; Pennsylvania's program is statewide and funded by lottery revenues; Houston only has a free program for people ages 70 and above, and Providence's program is limited to lowincome seniors and people with disabilities. It is confounding that the County Board would consider public policy with such widespread impact (and substantial and undefined cost) without first defining exactly who would benefit and whether similar programs in other communities have been cost-effective. A policy change like this should not be added as a last-minute budget amendment without public analysis and discussion, but instead should be vetted through the regular legislative process.

Finally, seniors in our community have never asked for free, charitable bus service. For years we have strongly advocated for investment in various transportation programs, including the Department on Aging's Specialized Transportation Program which is hugely popular and greatly underfunded. We strongly believe in connecting seniors who cannot drive or who are otherwise isolated to programs and services that help them leave fully independent lives. Seniors in Milwaukee County have many needs, but free bus service is not one of them. In the future, please ask us and our Commission on Aging colleagues about what seniors want and need and we will be happy to tell you.

Chair, Commission on Aging Executive Council Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee

Bob Haase, Chair

Aging Resource Center: (414) 289-6874 TOLL FREE: 1-866-229-9695 TRS: 7-1-1 www.county.milwaukee.gov/aging





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County Supervisor John Weishan, Jr. Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Weishan, Jr.:

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County Supervisor Steve Taylor Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Taylor:

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County Supervisor Anthony Staskunas Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Staskunas:

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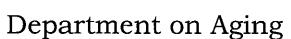
Bob Haase

Soli Haase

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Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

County Supervisor James Schmitt

Dear Supervisor Schmitt:

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County Supervisor Peggy Romo West Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Romo West:

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County Supervisor Khalif Rainey Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Rainey:

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County Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr. Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Mayo, Sr.:

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County Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, Sr. Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

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County Supervisor Patricia Jursik Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Jursik:

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County Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr. Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

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Viola "Vi" Hawkins

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Zaldaese **Bob Haase**

Chair, Commission on Aging Executive Council Commission on Aging Advocacy Committee

1220 West Vliet Street | Suite 302 | Milwaukee, WI 53205

Aging Resource Center: (414) 289-6874 | TOLL FREE: 1-866-229-9695 | TRS: 7-1-1 | www.county.milwaukee.gov/aging



Department on Aging



November 4, 2014

Stephanie Sue Stein Director (414)289-5950

Milwaukee County Commission on Aging

Viola "Vi" Hawkins Chairperson

Alvin C. Hill, Jr. Vice Chair

Debra J. Jupka Secretary

Steve F. Taylor County Supervisor

Maria Castrejon-Pérez Patsy Delgado **Bob Haase** Gwen T. Jackson Commissioner Emeritus Lynnea Katz-Petted Mary Kepler Fred Knueppel Sylvan Leabman Gary Mikolajczyk Nengmay S. Vang Johnny C. White, Jr. Barbara Wyatt Sibley

County Supervisor Jason Haas Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Haas:

On November 3rd, 2014, the Milwaukee County Commission on Aging Executive Committee and Advocacy Committee both voted unanimously to oppose last week's quick passage of a County Board Finance Committee budget amendment that would provide "free" bus service to county seniors and people with disabilities.

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County Supervisor David Cullen Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Cullen:

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County Supervisor Gerry Broderick Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Broderick:

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Milwaukee? County Department? on Aging Agi

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County Supervisor David Bowen Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Bowen:

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County Supervisor Mark Borkowski Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. – Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Borkowski:

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County Supervisor Deanna Alexander Milwaukee County Courthouse 901 N. 9th St. - Room 201 Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Supervisor Alexander:

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