

TO: County Board Chairman Lee Holloway

FR: County Executive Scott Walker

DT: Friday, June 30, 2006

RE: Proposal for a Park District

My primary constituency is the people of Milwaukee County. I do not believe that I solely represent the employees of Milwaukee County or the elected officials within Milwaukee County. Therefore, I try to look out for the broader interests of all of the people within the county.

With that in mind, I push an agenda that puts those broader interests first. At times (such as the Midwest Airlines deal or the oversight panel for funding to Milwaukee Public Museum), that means that I will work closely with the members of the County Board. At other times (such as the proposal for a Park District), that means that I may be at odds with the majority of the Supervisors.

Per your statement about working to dismantle county government, I refer to my original statement that I was elected to look out for the people of Milwaukee County and not just the interests of those within Milwaukee County government. With a fringe benefit rate of 70% and limited options for dealing with the pension and retiree health care costs, it may very well be that the best course for our community is to consider handing over many more or all of the services currently provided by county government to other organizations or governments.

That is not an ideological opinion as much as it is a fiscal reality.

I will still seek to work with you and the other members of the County Board on areas of common ground. The recent announcement of a task force by the Governor is one of great potential for collaboration. I believe that it will be important to remind the state that many of our long-term problems go beyond pensions and health care to state mandates and policies.

I look forward to working with you and this and other important issues.