

First, I want to begin by thanking God for all that he has given me in my life. Next, I want to thank my amazing family for all of their love and support. Then, I want to thank all of you – friends, supporters, elected officials and community leaders for being here tonight to share in our new term. Thank you for joining me.

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One of our sons has his first track meet next week. In high school, I too was a runner. My best events were the half mile and quarter mile. To be good, however, I trained in everything from short sprints to long distance runs. And every race required a plan – a specific strategy to win.

So it is with our new term.

Some of our victories will come soon. Things like an agreement over county land to build a new School of Engineering for UWM and the potential of a new, state-of-the-art mental health complex are within sight. We should sprint to those victories as they will establish hope for the next stages of our race.

Then, as we head into future budgets for the county, we should explore every possible option so that we might provide the core services expected of us while keeping our costs under control - so that our residents and our workforce can afford to stay in this great county. Facing this challenge will be more difficult than the early victories, but success will have a lasting benefit.

Finally, we must consider the long-term future of our county. To win this stage of the race, we must look beyond the boundaries of our current county government and consider the race that

must be won for this community and this region. I challenge each of us to consider what will be the best way to serve the people that we represent 5, 10, even 25 years from today.

To win each of these races will take a great team. I am proud of the people we have assembled on my staff and in my cabinet. I have reached out to the members of the County Board and look forward to continuing that outreach. I will continue to work also with leaders in other areas of government. And I appreciate the support and assistance of our business and civic leaders.

Most importantly, I look forward to working with you – the people of Milwaukee County. I never lost sight of the fact that we took office because the people of Milwaukee County opted not for anger, but for hope. They (really, we) wanted our government back and we strive to meet that goal every day.

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My parents have always been a great inspiration to me. When I ran track, my mother would provide quotes to motivate me for the next race. One came from the Book of Hebrews:

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and let us run with perseverance the race marked for us.”*

Now is the time for us to run with perseverance. Now is the time for us to win. Now, is the time to make Milwaukee County great again.