

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 14, 2007

Message from County Executive Walker

Per the newspaper story on Thursday about the "work-release jail," it is worth noting a few facts. Very few felons are sentenced to the House of Correction (HOC) or to the Community Correctional Center (CCC). Only offenders with less than a year sentence can be sent there and those sent to the CCC are usually in for a short time because a judge or HOC staff wants them to work and feels that they are no threat to the public. Currently, there are a number of serious crimes that are not allowed in the program.

Participants in the program currently go to work and then return to sleep at the CCC (it is not a jail with bars, it is a former hospital that holds offenders on Huber release). Earlier this year, I was told of a story of a person on Huber release seen walking his dog while on work release. While this is not a safety risk, it does violate the rules and raised the larger question of what is done to monitor these people during the day.

Staff from the HOC has since showed us the new forms of GPS technology that allow corrections staff to monitor these people 24/7. They can tell me exactly where they are and could send staff if someone is not following the rules.

I said that this made more sense – as long as we had adequate staff to monitor all of these people. The HOC proposal includes a significant increase in staff for this program and advanced technology to make it work. I talked with the Sheriff and the DA and they are comfortable with the program.

In addition, the savings from closing the CCC will allow us to put more deputies out on patrol through programs like the Targeted Enforcement Unit. This unit worked well on the lakefront this summer and it can work well in other parts of the county too.

I do not believe that building a cozy new structure is the answer. People with Huber privileges are supposed to be working. In the past, the building was a place for them to sleep at night. I am more worried about what they are doing when they are awake than where they sleep at night. This program allows the county to do a better job of monitoring these people day and night.

Scott

9/11 Memorial Ceremony



County Executive Walker hosted a ceremony at the Milwaukee County War Memorial in remembrance of 9/11. The Milwaukee County Sheriff Office presented the colors, Emily Lindeman – Chp. Pres. for Operation Homefront sang the National Anthem, Rev. Carl Krueger and Carl Oeldemann of the WI Legion offered prayers, Gold Star parents rang the USS Milwaukee bell for the Armed Forces, Police and Fire Depts. and victims of 9/11, the Milw. Metropolitan Non-Commissioned Officer Council presented the memorial wreaths, rifle salute by the Badger Detachment Marine Corps League, and Nathan Hennlich of Cudahy Middle School performed Taps.

CYD 37th Image Awards



County Executive Walker at the Career Youth Development 37th Image Awards with (L-R) Earl Hill – CYD Board President, Jeannetta Robinson, and Rosco Foster – Administrative Aide for CYD

Green Print Initiative



County Executive Walker signed the Green Print resolution, authored by Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, to augment the environmental and conservation initiatives throughout the county, at the Karen Peck Katz Conservation Education Center at the Milwaukee County Zoo.

Clinton & Bernice Rose Center 25th



Walker presents a proclamation to Henrietta Allen – Dir. of the Clinton Rose Sr. Center, and Stacey Vojvodich of Interfaith Older Adult Programs, in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the Clinton Rose Senior Center.

Zoo Gathering Place



County Executive Walker joined representatives from US Bank, the Zoological Society (ZSM) and the Milw. County Zoo to break ground on the Gathering Place at the zoo entry. Pictured: Karen Peck Katz – ZSM Board Chair-elect, Bill Bertha – Pres. and CEO US Bank, John Sapp – ZSM Chairman, Walker, Bert Davis – Pres. and CEO of ZSM, Rich Tennesen – Eppstein Uhen Architects, Mark Sherry – Mortenson Construction, Chuck Wikenhauser – Zoo Director, Dr. Gil Boese – Pres. Emeritus of the ZSM

HOPE School Grant



County Executive Walker thanked the Siebert Company at the announcement of their \$1 million grant award to HOPE Christian Schools .

Community Events

County Executive Walker recently attended and addressed the crowds at the Indian Summer and Tosa Fest opening ceremonies, joined members of the Beulah Brinton Community Center for lunch, and kicked off the Milwaukee County employee Combined Giving Campaign.