

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

September 19, 2008

Message from County Executive Walker

The economy is a very hot topic this week. On Tuesday, October 7th, we will be hosting an Economic Dialogue at the Milwaukee County Zoo. Check out this site for more details at <http://tinyurl.com/6xh86s>.

Four different panels will discuss topics from education, to health care, to infrastructure and global competition. Each panel is filled with business and civic leaders who will share insights on the impact of the topic area on the economy in Milwaukee County and southeastern Wisconsin.

The event will conclude with a lunch featuring Congressman Paul Ryan. Please RSVP to Dorothy Moore at 414-278-4211 or email us at CoExecRSVP@milwcnty.com if you would like to attend.

I hope that you can join us.

Scott



County Exec and DA announce continuation of Witness Protection program



Milwaukee County District Attorney John Chisholm joined County Executive Walker at a news conference to announce the county executive's inclusion of an additional \$345,000 in the 2009 Budget for the creation of a **Witness Protection** program. The program aims to protect the safety and security of crime victims and witnesses and to ensure that offenders who threaten, intimidate or harm victims or witnesses are swiftly prosecuted and punished. A pilot program conducted over the summer months proved to be highly successful, resulting in 24 arrests and convictions.

The program will be staffed by 5 district attorney investigators and ensure that victims and witnesses feel safe to testify and cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation and prosecution of criminals.

Both Walker and Chisholm thanked Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen for his efforts in obtaining state grant funds for the summer pilot and continued support of the program.

Combined Giving Campaign Kicks Off



County Executive Walker and Jim Ziemer – President and CEO of Harley-Davidson Motor Company and a co-chair of this year’s Combined Giving Campaign (CGC), rode their Harley-Davidson motorcycles to lead this year’s county CGC leaders to departments at City Campus and the Marcia P. Cogg’s Center to rally support for contributions. Supervisor Elizabeth Cogg’s and Lisa Jo Marks, coordinators for the county courthouse effort, joined the group.

AZA Conference



County Executive Walker addressed the 1600 attendees of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums 84th Annual Conference held in Milwaukee Sept. 14-18. A worldwide audience participated in the “Art by Animals” auction featuring Nigel Marven (above left), acclaimed wildlife television producer. Animal artists included a Humboldt penguin, two-toed sloth, three-banded armadillo and a straw-colored fruit bat.

Walker appeals to Election Commission

County Executive Walker reiterated his appeal to the City of Milwaukee Election Commission Susan Edman in a letter stating, “You may be aware of reports from Detroit regarding fraudulent and duplicate voter registration applications by the same group found to be manipulating the registration process in Milwaukee. The Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN) essentially condones the illegal applications through acceptance of ‘sloppiness and incompetence’ by their workers. This is more than sloppy and incompetent. The extent of the fraudulent outreach is widespread and demonstrates a concerted effort to affect the outcome of elections.

At least the clerks in Detroit are required to check their records against a statewide database of all registered voters within their jurisdiction, not just those from an arbitrary date in August going forward. By not verifying applications received in Milwaukee prior to August 8th, the opportunity for fraud is compounded, and the integrity of the election lost to a tainted list.

I appeal to you again to have your office review all applications received from non-city employees. This additional scrutiny is warranted given the questionable tactics used by the independent voter registration organizations.”

Community Events

County Executive Walker met with officials in Washington, DC this week while attending the St. Lawrence Seaway conference.

A preview of the renovations at Mitchell Park Horticultural Domes appeared on WITI-Fox6 with Gus Gnorski and Sandy Folaron – Director of the Domes. The Domes will reopen to the public in mid-October with a grand opening to take place in early November.