



Elizabeth M. Coggs

10th District Milwaukee County Supervisor

Milwaukee County Courthouse • 901 N. 9th Street, RM 201 • Milwaukee, WI 53233

Phone: (414) 278-4265 • E-mail: elizabeth.coggs@milwcnty.com

Please visit my Website for day to day news on Milwaukee County at:

<http://www.milwaukee.gov/SupervisorElizabethC7923.htm>

April 2009 10th District E-News

Supervisor Elizabeth M. Coggs letter to President Barack Obama April 6, 2009:

Dear President Barack H. Obama,

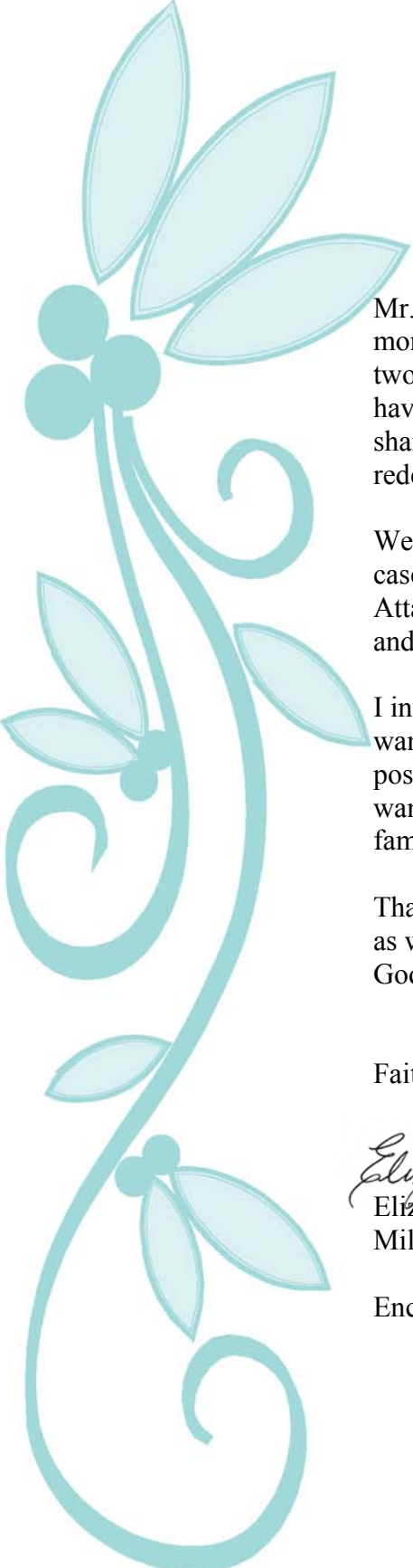
President Obama would you agree that one of the principals of our democratic process is Redemption? In my most humble opinion, I believe you are doing an excellent job with restoring our nation's economy. However, Sir I know you have a plethora of decisions on how you are going to distribute the stimulus monies.

As I sat and listened to Bishop Sedgwick Daniels of Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ a few weeks ago preach, he spoke from the Book of Luke, Chapter 15. An unusual request for our two sons, our two sons represents the two sons that Jesus Christ conveys in a parable in the Scriptures called the Prodigal Son. The older son represents this fine country that our founding fathers wrote about in 1776. The younger son represents where our country is in 2009. The younger son decided to waste his substance on riotous living. After the younger son spent it all, there arose a mighty famine, "recession." When the younger son came to his right senses, he decided to move back home with his father and older brother. Mr. President the satire of this situation is that businesses are receiving bailout monies to have some redemption. It would be a shame to think that major corporations are more important than restoring or redeeming human beings to a proper place in society.

However, the crucial point of the whole parable is repentance, recapture, and redemption. According to U.S. Census Bureau estimates in 2006, African-Americans made up 26.3% of Milwaukee County's population while persons of Latino origin made up 10.8% and African-Americans make up only 5.7% of Wisconsin's total population but account for 38.8% of the state's incarcerated population, a rate 11.6 times higher than whites. Men of color with child support payment arrears that have felonious records often have an insurmountable task of finding meaningful, sustainable employment, let alone, paying back prior debts incurred, leading to more problem areas in their lives.



Chairwoman: Finance and Audit, Combined Community Services Board, Vision for Vliet Task Force, Work Reform for Men of Color Task Force • **Milwaukee County Committees:** Parks, Energy and Environment, Health and Human Needs • **Memberships:** National Association of Counties (NACo), National Organization of Black County Officials, Milwaukee County Friends of Africa, Inc. • **Community Involvement:** Founder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Back-to-School Festival Board, Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy Board, Abundant Life Ministry, Inc. Board, King Advisory, Inc. Board, Member of Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ

A large, stylized teal floral graphic on the left side of the page, featuring a central stem with several leaves and small circular buds, and a large, elegant scroll at the bottom.

Mr. President, the satire of this situation is that businesses are receiving bailout monies to have some Redemption. Sir, I know this is an unusual request for our two sons. The State of Wisconsin is seeking an unusual request so our sons can have the same opportunities these major corporations are getting. It would be a shame to think that major corporations are more important than restoring or redeeming human beings to a proper place in society.

We are seeking three million dollars to put 1400 men to work and provide them with case management, supportive services and incentives for employers to hire them. Attached please find the historical information, passed resolutions, penitent statistics and the proposal regarding the Work Reform Men of Color Task Force Plan.

I invite you to walk in the shoes of the voiceless and the have-nots in Milwaukee, we want to make a difference: we have the partnerships, ideas and vision to have a positive impact in the lives of Men of Color who have been disenfranchised. We want prosperity for them; we want them to be the husbands and father so there family members can be proud!

Thank you for listening to the cries of thousands. Mr. President we want to join you as we work together to seek change and bring hope to the lives of many. I wish you God's peace, health and blessing, you are always in my prayers.

Faith, Hope and Harmony,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth M. Coggs".

Elizabeth M. Coggs

Milwaukee County 10th District Supervisor

Enclosures