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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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October 2, 2012

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### Common Council members call for County to codify changes in Medical Examiner's procedures

Twelve members of the Milwaukee Common Council today sent a letter (**attached**) to **Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele** and **Milwaukee County Board Chairwoman Marina Dimitrijevic** asking that specific changes be made into law regarding procedures and practices in the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office. The 12 Council members are urging changes in the Medical Examiner's practices in the wake of the death last year of Derek Williams while in Milwaukee Police Department custody.

Several Council members met with the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office on Friday (Sept. 28) to discuss concerns related to the Derek Williams case. As a result of that discussion Medical Examiner Dr. Brian L. Peterson assured the members that policy changes have been made and put in place to prevent missteps from happening again in the case of a person who dies in the custody of Milwaukee police or as a result of the actions of MPD personnel.

"To ensure these policy decisions remain, we are now asking county officials to utilize the legislative process and make into law the Medical Examiner's suggestions in addition to certain key procedural changes," Alderman Hines said.

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