



June 11, 2015

City Clerk **Jim Owczarski**
(414) 286-2998

Milwaukee Youth Council meets with Municipal Court Judges

Members of the **City of Milwaukee Youth Council (MYC)** met with Municipal Court Judges **Phillip M. Chavez** and **Derek C. Mosley** on Wednesday (June 10, 2015) to discuss the establishment of a youth court in Milwaukee. According to the National Association of Youth Courts (NAYC), “youth courts are programs in which youth sentence their peers for minor delinquent and status offenses and other problem behaviors.” Youth courts began to appear in the United States in the early 1980s.

Currently, there are more than 1,200 youth court programs in the United States, including 41 in Wisconsin, according to the Wisconsin Court System. The idea of these systems is to let youth have a positive impact on their peers and reduce the recidivism rate among juveniles. According to **City Clerk Jim Owczarski**, the types of crimes that are most frequently heard are “non-violent offenses such as truancy, disorderly conduct and loitering.”

“When used effectively, these programs serve not only as an alternative to juvenile court, but an effective learning tool for all involved,” Mr. Owczarski said

The meeting between the Municipal Court Judges and the MYC proved productive. Judge Chavez said afterwards, “I believe the first steps have been taken in making Youth Court a reality in Milwaukee. The passion of the Milwaukee Youth Council is very encouraging and this concept has the potential to have a very positive impact on young first-time offenders and provide an educational experience for those young people who will sit on the court as well.”

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