December 20, 2011

County Supervisor Lee Holloway
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, RM 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Chairman Holloway:

In light of the recent assaults on passengers and previous acts of violence committed against county bus drivers, I am reaching out to you in the hope that we can take steps together to help create a safe environment for all who ride and drive county buses.

I am hoping you will consider supporting and championing with me a memorandum of understanding between the city and Milwaukee County that would utilize Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) officers to ride and patrol county buses. The City of Milwaukee currently provides police patrols on the lakefront and in county parks, and it also has agreements to provide police officer security at Miller Park (a previous function of Milwaukee County) and at the Bradley Center.

A great number of our constituents and other city residents rely on Milwaukee County Transit System buses to get to and from work, school, shopping, and many other appointments. They should be able to ride the bus without fear of being assaulted, and it is painfully obvious that the current security firm contracted by the county has failed to protect bus drivers and riders.

We must create a safe riding environment for our residents, and given the viciousness of the attacks on the buses, MPD is best suited to step up. I look forward to working cooperatively with you and Chief Flynn in helping make Milwaukee officers a regular and forceful presence on county buses.

Sincerely,

Willie L. Hines, Jr.
Alderman, 15th District
President, Common Council