



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

Tuesday, October 2, 2012

Chris Abele
Milwaukee County Executive
901 N. 9th St. – Room 306
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Marina Dimitrijevic
Chairwoman, Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
901 N. 9th St. – Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Re: The Derek Williams Death Investigation

Dear County Executive Abele and Chairwoman Dimitrijevic:

Several Common Council members met with the Milwaukee County Medical Examiner's Office on Friday September 28, 2012 to discuss concerns related to the Derek Williams case. As a result of this discussion Dr. Peterson has assured us that policy changes have been made and put in place to prevent such unfortunate scenarios from happening again.

We appreciate and respect the Medical Examiner's administrative decision of making policy changes to improve how such cases are handled. To ensure these policy decisions remain, we are asking county officials to utilize the legislative process and make into law the Medical Examiner's suggestions in addition to procedural changes in the following categories:

1. All police records (and associated evidence) must be made a part of the investigation prior to an official determination of the cause of death being made public, specifically when a person dies in the custody of the Milwaukee Police Department (MPD) or as a result of the actions of MPD personnel.
2. A standard process for documenting the evidentiary chain of custody when handling all cases, particularly when a person dies in the custody of the MPD or as a result of the actions of MPD personnel.
3. When a person dies in the custody of the MPD or as a result of the actions of MPD personnel, we are asking that there is a special review by a senior staff member in the Medical Examiner's office (with the chief examiner authorizing final approval to ensure accuracy). We ask for same when it is determined that a person has died in MPD custody from a rare cause of death.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this issue.

Respectfully,
The Undersigned Members of the Milwaukee Common Council



President Willie L. Hines, Jr.



Ald. Ashanti Hamilton



Ald. Joe Davis, Sr.



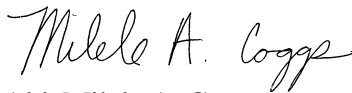
Ald. Nik Kovac



Ald. Robert J. Bauman



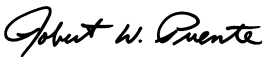
Ald. James A. Bohl, Jr.



Ald. Milele A. Coggs



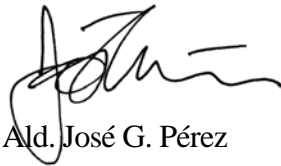
Ald. Willie C. Wade



Ald. Robert Puente



Ald. Michael Murphy



Ald. José G. Pérez



Ald. Tony Zielinski