
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

October 26, 2021

Ald. Khalif J. Rainey
(414) 286-2221

MEDIA ALERT

Ald. Rainey to County Exec on re-naming of County's Office of African-American Affairs: STOP!

In a letter sent today to Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley (**attached**), **Alderman Khalif J. Rainey** urges that the county executive not move forward with a plan to rename the County's Office of African-American Affairs.

Alderman Rainey, citing a County budget proposal to rename the OAAA as the "Office of Equity," suggests County Executive Crowley work on more pressing matters, including restoring "the proper authority of the County Board stripped away by the absurdities of (Wisconsin) Act 14."

In part, the letter states: "Did I miss the news today announcing that African-American unemployment was no longer the worst in our state? Did I miss the report praising the educational and economic opportunities now offered African-Americans? Did I miss the national study telling everyone how African-Americans were now becoming homeowners and building stores of value for their children?

Or did I instead read that Wisconsin continues to incarcerate African-Americans at a higher rate than any other state in America – one in 36? Yes, that's what I read, two days ago." Alderman Rainey said he will also urge members of the County Board to vote against the re-naming proposal.

During his tenure as a member of the County Board, Alderman Rainey sponsored legislation creating the County OAAA. He also sponsored Common Council legislation creating the city's Office of African American Affairs, as well as a file that will allow the city's OAAA to be housed in a building located in the 4600 block of W. Fond du Lac Ave.

-30-

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KHALIF J. RAINEY
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

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ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

October 26, 2021

The Honorable,
County Executive David Crowley
Milwaukee County Courthouse, Room 306
901 N. 9th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Dear Mr. Crowley,

Your decision to re-name the Office of African-American Affairs as the Office of Equity is by any measure a terrible mistake. It is a transparently political choice that seems to have been made by someone deaf to the human realities that made the creation of the Office of African-American Affairs necessary.

I know why this office exists. I worked for years to see it created. I lived the racism, segregation, crime, and poverty that afflicts our community long enough to know that the needs of our people are unique and in need of particular attention.

I watched county executives who served before you promise progress and offer half measures. Despairing of Milwaukee County's help, I fought with Mayor Barrett and his administration to give this office life. I watched the idea being tossed around like a dirty rag while our people continued to struggle.

And now, after these many years, with a strong director in place and an actual roadmap for the future in mind, what do you do?

Did I miss the news today announcing that African-American unemployment was no longer the worst in our state? Did I miss the report praising the educational and economic opportunities now offered African-Americans? Did I miss the national study telling everyone how African-Americans were now becoming homeowners and building stores of value for their children?

Or did I instead read that Wisconsin continues to incarcerate African-Americans at a higher rate than any other state in America – one in 36? Yes, that's what I read, two days ago.

To whom does any of this make sense? Do you believe it? Could you articulate your reasons for it while Chris Abele is drinking a glass of water? I wonder. Many of us wonder.

For the sake of all you claim to serve, I sincerely ask you to reconsider. And if you really want to change Milwaukee County for the better, I suggest you leave the Office of African-American Affairs alone and work instead to restore the proper authority of the County Board stripped away by the absurdities of Act 14.

Sincerely,



Khalif J. Rainey,
Alderman, 7th District

