

DAWNING OF A NEW DAY

The recent elections for local government have brought some new faces and a new alignment of standing committees for the both the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County. As a result of this new alignment, we can be optimistic about the city and county working more closely together.

First, we have experienced leadership at the top. Both Mayor Tom Barrett and County Executive Scott Walker were re-elected. Alderman Willie L. Hines, Jr. was unanimously re-elected as the Common Council President. At the county level, Supervisor Lee Holloway was also re-elected as the County Board Chairman. They have both pledged to provide cooperative leadership to address the critical issues in the community to help move Greater Milwaukee forward.

While the top leadership of city and county government remained the same, significant changes took place within the standing committees. At the city level, our local Alderman Jim Witkowiak is the new chairman of the powerful Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development committee (ZND), replacing retired Alderman Mike D'Amato. As a business owner himself, and representative of the Menomonee Valley area, Alderman Witkowiak has been and will likely continue to be a champion of the Valley and the business association. Given the fact that the ZND committee is responsible for many business development issues such as proposals for expansion and Tax Incremental Financing (TIF), Alderman Witkowiak figures to be a key ally for Valley businesses looking to grow.

In addition, Alderman Jim Bohl replaces Alderman Witkowiak as chair of the License committee. Primarily the city body that issues liquor licenses, the License committee is also important to Valley businesses because it issues various permits and regulations regarding manufacturing, residential and commercial improvements and light industrial operations. It is also one of only two city committees that include both first-term alderpersons Milele Coggs and Nik Kovac as members. They both also serve on the Finance & Personnel committee.

At the county level, the most significant changes include the Transportation, Public Works & Transit committee (TPWT) and the Economic & Community Development committee. Supervisor Michael Mayo is the new chair of the TPWT committee. Supervisor Toni Clarke chairs the Economic & Community Development committee, replacing Supervisor Mayo. Both the TPWT and Economic & Community Development committees are important to Valley businesses because they are responsible for the construction and maintenance of county highways, bridges and public structures, matters pertaining to mass transit and the Milwaukee County Transit System, economic development and the disposition of county properties.

We will work to schedule each of the committee chairs mentioned above for a presentation before the business association. Mueller Communications is pleased to serve as the government affairs liaison to the Menomonee Valley Business Association and to lend our expertise to the continued overall growth of the Valley.