



March 2, 2023

Re: My Brother's Keeper Joint Declaration - Mayor Johnson and County Executive Crowley

To Whom it May Concern:

First and foremost, the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County applaud the Obama Foundation for its mission "to inspire, empower, and connect people to change the world." We share the same strong commitment, and we are honored that just a few years ago, the Foundation declared Milwaukee a "A Community to Watch" as it pertains to promoting efforts to support and provide opportunities for young men and boys of color.

We are proud that Milwaukee was one of the first of 11 cities chosen by the National League of Cities and Open Society Foundations Campaign for Black Male Achievement (CBMA) to receive technical assistance to promote Black male achievement approximately a decade ago. A key outcome was the creation of the Milwaukee Black Male Achievement Advisory Council (BMAAC) and Milwaukee's My Brother's Keeper Action Plan (MBK). Our MBK Plan is a direct response to President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge and informs much of the work of several city and county departments and community partner agencies.

As the first elected African American Mayor and the youngest and first African American County Executive, both under the age of 40, we feel closer to the challenges young men and boys of color face.

"My path to public service was inspired by mentors. As a teenager, I was guided toward public service by adults who took an interest in my future. We all appreciate the importance of direction and encouragement. All of us can lend a hand so that the great potential residing in our young people is fully realized." said Mayor Cavalier Johnson.

"As a young man who faced adversities early in life – from housing insecurity, to living in a household where family members dealt with mental illness and substance use – I leaned on organizations and mentors who taught me how to love myself and my community," said Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley. "I can without hesitation say that level of support saved my life."

The City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County have a strong history of supporting efforts like My Brother's Keeper and together our governments have played a strong leadership role in catalyzing local MBK stakeholders, providing support, financial resources, and dedicated staff to implement our MBK Plan across the metropolitan Milwaukee area. We have formed strong partnerships with many community partners to improve life outcomes of boys and men of color through BMAAC and our MBK Plan implementation partners. To help move us forward, the African American Leadership Alliance of Milwaukee (AALAM) has emerged as a great lead partner organization. The president and CEO of AALAM, Walter Lanier, has been involved with our BMA and MBK

work since our local movement started and, along with BMAAC and other partners, has created several BMA and other programs producing good outcomes. Mr. Lanier and AALAM are committed to engaging key stakeholders across all the diverse communities in Milwaukee, that young men and boys of color call home. We are building upon this foundation to make Milwaukee a region where every young person has what they need to be healthy, safe, and thrive.

With MBK certification and support from the Obama Foundation, as well as from the city and county, Milwaukee will scale up the impact of its MBK Plan, reaching men of color living in the towns, villages, and other local municipalities that make up the whole of Milwaukee County.

Thank you for considering Milwaukee for this designation. We look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cavalier Johnson', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Cavalier Johnson
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Crowley', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

David Crowley
County Executive