

City of Milwaukee Youth Council

Vincent Synowicz

Representative – District 12

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July 20, 2013

Jim Owczarski, City Clerk  
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Mr. Owczarski:

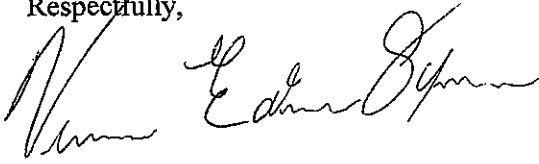
The attendance rate of my fellow Youth Council colleagues has fallen dramatically since the start of the 2012-2013 term. The low attendance rate of my fellow colleagues has correlated into a low productivity rate for the entire council. The inability of the Youth Council to conduct its business in proper manner has hindered the effectiveness of the Youth Council, and without a complete reform of the Youth Council I believe the problems that have hindered the productivity of this year's council will only escalate in the coming years.

As you know, the Youth Council was unable to properly conduct its business for nearly three months due to the gridlock that existed during the election of the Youth Council president. This resulted in little to no progress in determining committee assignments, appointing the executive committee, and effectively working with one another to draft resolutions and address the many challenges our city faces in the coming years. The low attendance rate was the cause of many resolutions failing with one dissenting vote leaving a majority of the existing council members in disbelief that what is intended to be a fifteen-member body was unable to legislate in an effective manner because one member dissented from the majority. I will be offering a formal resolution at our next formal meeting urging adoption of the following recommendations. However, in the case that the Youth Council is unable to vote on the following recommendations due to the lack of a quorum I would urge adoption of these recommendations by the Milwaukee Common Council:

1. Set the terms of the Youth Council to begin on September 1<sup>st</sup> and to end on May 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Change the attendance policy of the Youth Council to read as follows: No member shall miss more than three formal meetings, three informal meetings, and two committee meetings. Failure to comply with these restrictions will result in immediate termination. It is the responsibility of each individual member to review this policy prior to taking their oath of office. No candidate shall accept a role on the Youth Council unless they are able to fully comply with these guidelines.
3. Require that the President be selected at the first formal meeting of the Youth Council.
4. Establish three standing committees of the Youth Council: 1.) Education Committee; 2.) Public Safety; 3.) Community Outreach

5. The Executive Committee is to be comprised of the Youth Council President, Vice President, and the chairperson of each standing committee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vincent E. Synowicz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "V".

Vincent E. Synowicz  
Representative – District 12  
City of Milwaukee Youth Council