

SHARON D. ROBINSON

Approximately 25 years of executive level management experience in the government and non-profit sectors. Proven record of building effective partnerships with government, business, philanthropic and community leaders. Possess excellent communication skills. Excel in fast-paced, high-pressure environments. Management style includes a team approach of employee engagement, collaboration and empowerment that results in an environment where honesty, trust, respect and integrity are norms.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee, WI

August 2004 - present

Director - Department of Administration (DOA): Direct, manage and oversee department in City government responsible for most centralized functions. DOA divisions and offices include Budget and Management, Community Development Grants Administration, Intergovernmental Relations, Information Technology Management, Purchasing, Environmental Collaboration and Small Business Development. (August 2004 - present)

Major Achievements:

General Management/Government Reform

- **Strategic Planning:** Led strategic planning efforts on behalf of the Mayor to establish a vision statement, mission statement, community goals and strategic objectives to frame the work of the Barrett Administration and set budget priorities.
- **Management Accountability:** Formed intradepartmental team to develop and implement the Accountability in Management (AIM) program. AIM is the Mayor's primary tool for overseeing the operations of City government and managing for results based on performance driven data.
- **Customer Service:** Spearheaded the Unified Call Center Initiative to improve citizen service delivery, reduce costs and achieve operational efficiencies. In addition to consolidating existing Call Centers within City government, the project involved the implementation of computer software to track citizen service requests and provide timely reports on response times.

Educational/Economic Opportunity

- **Children's Savings Accounts:** Created and formed the Children's Savings Accounts (CSA) Working Group in response to ideas shared within the *City of Milwaukee Growing Prosperity Plan*. Leading efforts to advance the group's concept paper of an ideal Milwaukee CSA program and build public/private support. Research shows that low-income children with college savings of \$500 or less are 3 times more likely to enroll in college and 4 times more likely to graduate. The program will serve an estimated 26,400 kindergarteners and their families in the first three years if successfully implemented.
- **Black Male Achievement/My Brother's Keeper:** Playing a lead role in building the infrastructure in City government to advance black male achievement and racial equity (includes a new DOA director level manager position to drive these efforts). Identified and co-wrote grant application that led to Milwaukee being chosen as one of the first of eleven cities to receive technical assistance from the National League of Cities and Open Society Foundations to support

this work. This effort led to the creation of the Milwaukee Black Male Achievement Advisory Council. Spearheaded efforts to draft Milwaukee's My Brother's Keeper Action Plan to mobilize community stakeholders around a common agenda to improve life outcomes of boys and men of color and align efforts using common measures of success.

- **Manpower Inc. and Northwestern Mutual (NM) Workforce Development Programs:** Oversaw the administration of Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) dollars allocated for workforce development during construction of the Manpower and NML's new headquarters (\$500,000 for each program). Both of these private development projects have exceeded program goals and have connected hundreds of traditionally underserved residents to job training and employment opportunities in the construction trades industry.
- **I Have A Dream Milwaukee:** Spearheaded I Have a Dream Milwaukee, a program to empower low-income youth to achieve a higher education. Raised \$1.5 million in public and private investments to start up the program including funding for college tuition for four classes of students at Clarke Street School. Our Dreamers entered the program as 1st and 2nd graders; they will be 9th and 10th graders this fall. Lead fundraising efforts to support continuation of annual program operations until all Dreamers graduate college.

Revenue Expansion/Grants Administration

- **Milwaukee Civic Partnership Initiative (MCPI):** Led efforts to launch the MCPI due to limited revenue generating options. The MCPI allows the City to leverage assets to create partnerships between the City and private sector businesses and nonprofits in exchange of revenues. The City recently signed a \$3.5 million deal with Verizon Wireless to add small cell technology on City-owned light poles. Negotiations are underway with Crown Castle on a similar deal.
- **Grants Administration Reform:** Broadened the mission of the Community Development Grants Administration division and created a Grants Manager position responsible for aggressively pursuing a wider net of public and private grants. The position has garnered over \$500 million in new grant funding since its inception.
- **Stimulus Czar:** Created and led the City's Stimulus Action Team that worked to secure \$209 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant awards. ARRA funds were used to fund local transportation projects, alleviate the impacts of mortgage foreclosures, hire police officers, retrofit residential and commercial properties for energy efficiency, train youth and young adults in the construction and urban forestry industries and expand access to computer technology at public libraries and public housing sites.
- **U. S. Census Efforts:** Created and led the City's Complete Count Committee to safeguard the city's portion of the \$400 billion the federal government distributes annually to communities based on census data. Mobilized hundreds of volunteers and community-based organizations to spread the word about the importance of the 2010 census. The final count concluded the number of people residing in Milwaukee declined by less than four-tenths-of-one-percent. Assisted with orchestrating the successful challenge of the Census Bureau's population estimates for Milwaukee three years earlier.
- **Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Appeal:** Tasked the Intergovernmental Relations Division and CDGA Division with assisting the Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security with developing a strategy to reverse FEMA's decision to deny disaster assistance to Milwaukee residents impacted by the historic July 2010 floods. Our successful appeal resulted in \$58 million in disaster aid.

Executive Director – Election Commission: Directed, managed and oversaw the department in City government responsible for administering election activities in accordance with applicable provisions of City, County, State and federal election law. Served in this capacity while simultaneously serving as the City’s Director of Administration. (February 2005 – July 2005)

Major Achievements:

- **Election Reform:** Served as Executive Director in the wake of a controversial 2004 presidential election year that revealed significant problems with the City’s election system. Created and Chaired the City of Milwaukee Election Task Force formed to study the City’s election processes and make recommendations for improvements. Led recruitment efforts to hire a new Director and Deputy Director to successfully implement all of the task force recommendations and restore integrity and trust in the system.

NON-PROFIT EXPERIENCE

William Davidson Institute (WDI), Washington, D.C.

October 2001 - August 2004

- **Executive Director – WDI Washington, D.C. Office:** Managed the start-up of the William Davidson Institute’s Washington, D.C. office (headquartered at the University of Michigan, School of Business). Worked closely with WDI Distinguished Scholar, **former U. S. Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright**, to raise the Institute’s visibility and standing nationally and globally. WDI’s mission is to develop knowledge and capacity that helps to improve the effectiveness of firms and social welfare in emerging democracies.

Major Achievements:

- Created and executed a plan to build relationships with Institute faculty/scholars and high level officials from the U. S. State Department, U. S. Agency for International Development, Washington, D.C. think tanks and Congressional foreign policy leaders.
- Planned and executed several major conferences on Capitol Hill (chaired by Secretary Albright) attended by elite national and international business, government and academic leaders. These events led to the formation of many successful collaborative partnerships and new investments in the WDI.
- Secured hundreds of thousands of federal grant dollars to support projects in WDI’s niche areas of business development, executive education and higher education reform.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

U. S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

August 1983 - October 2001

Chief of Staff and Legislative Director - U. S. Congressman Tom Barrett (D-WI): Directed, managed and oversaw the Congressman’s Washington, D.C. and district offices (April 1996 - October 2001). Directed and planned legislative initiatives and strategies; supervised legislative staff (November 1993 - April 1996).

Major Achievements:

- Assisted Congressman in leading collaborative efforts to advance quality of life policies, programs and projects including: waivers to create Badger Care, a new Milwaukee Job Corps, Amtrak Intermodal station improvements and Milwaukee Public Market.
- Orchestrated several forums featuring former U. S. Attorney General Janet Reno, former First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, former U. S. Surgeon General David Satcher and former Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Arthur Levitt to influence federal policies, grants and programs.

Appropriations Associate and Senior Legislative Assistant - U. S. Congressman Bob Carr (D-MI):

Handled House Appropriations Committee work including tasks related to the Commerce, Justice, State and the Judiciary, Education and Labor, Foreign Relations and Transportation subcommittees (August 1990 – November 1993). Mentored junior staff and monitored legislative developments in assigned issue areas (August 1983 – August 1990).

Major Achievements:

- Assisted Congressman in his role as a member of the distinguished College of Cardinals (comprised of all of the House Appropriations Committee Chairs). Drafted bills and amendments for subcommittee and floor action and set funding priorities.
- Successfully secured millions of dollars for local and state projects ranging from Great Lakes Water research initiatives to Focus Hope's Training Center for Advanced Technologies to interstate highway improvement projects.

BOARD MEMBERSHIPS/DISTINGUISHED AWARDS

Member, I Have a Dream Milwaukee Board of Directors (November 2011 - present)

Member, Enderis Park Neighborhood Association Board of Directors (January 2014 – present)

Member, United Way Combined Giving Campaign Cabinet (May 2011 - December 2014)

Member, Milwaukee Job Corps Community Relations Board (March 2011 – March 2014)

Member, National Coalition of 100 Black Women-Milwaukee Chapter (April 2008 - April 2014)

Member, Milwaukee Forum (November 2006 – May 2012)

Member, Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Transit Authority (March 2006 - December 2009)

Recipient, U.S. Postal Service Women Putting their Stamp on Milwaukee Award (March 2010)

Mayoral/Council Recognition, Honored with official Mayoral and Common Council proclamations for being an outstanding public servant (March 2010)

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Arts Degree, Communications Arts and Sciences, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (Graduated August 1983)