



1. Describe the proposed ordinance or resolution. File number: 252139

Flagpole installation at Milwaukee County Parks beaches to provide visual recognition of unhealthy or unsafe swim conditions. This will involve putting in four 20-foot-high flagpoles which require Geotechnical reports on soil bearings and an architectural and engineering design for the foundation and installation.

An easement with Milwaukee County Parks is already underway due to a previously scrapped electronic signage effort that became cost prohibitive. The City of Milwaukee Health Department is responsible for the posting of beach conditions per Wis. s.s. 254.46, to include E. Coli water quality and dangerous surf conditions as alerted by the National Weather Service.

2. Identify the anticipated equity impacts, if any, of this proposal.

Beach safety and surveillance information will reach more people in this manner. These flags will help beachgoers who bypass the current notification signs for swim conditions to not fail to notice 3x5' flags that also indicate the swim status of the beach (closed or open). Our current notification system includes changing beach signs based on current water quality/swim status; people are able to read the signs/swim conditions when they're in front of the posts, and the flags would supplement this information for the entirety of the beach to see.

3. Identify which minority groups, if any, may be negatively or positively impacted by the proposal.

Positive impacts of the beach sign postings for both water quality and surf conditions will give a better chance for beachgoers, swimmers, bathers, divers, and surfers to make more conscious decisions when entering the water. Especially for those that may not have strong basic swimming skills, such as: the ability to float, tread water, perform the sidestroke, or exhibit breath control while in the water.



4. Describe any engagement efforts with minority communities potentially impacted by the proposal.

Engagement efforts would be the visibility of the flagpoles, as well as the risk signs. The flagpoles will indicate an "open," "advisory," or "closed" notification based on the swimming condition. On the MHD website, there will also be a notification of the current beach swim status.

5. Describe how any anticipated equity impacts of the proposal will be documented or evaluated.

Public feedback on social media as well as beach surveillance will aid in assessing the impact of the new flagpoles. Public health surveillance of ED visits for near drownings and/or fatalities will give a better understanding to impact. Many lives could be saved by observing the flags which are more visible to the public versus the sign system that is currently in place. There have been 11 drownings on our shores in recent years, with four occurring in 2020.

6. Describe strategies that will be used, if any, to mitigate any anticipated equity impacts.

The public will be better able to see the flags from a distance with the flags on a 20' flagpole. The flagpole placements will be made with the intention of high visibility to our beachgoers. This will lead to overall increased awareness of beach conditions at all the monitored Milwaukee beaches.

Name: **Neelaganga Patil**

Signature: **Neelu Patil**

Digitally signed by Neelu Patil
Date: 2026.03.27 14:45:38 -05'00'

Date: **3/27/2026**