## Cullen Improves County's Collection of Delinquent Property Taxes

MILWAUKEE – Milwaukee County Treasurer David Cullen announced today that he has entered into a contract with Credit Management Control, Inc., to enhance Milwaukee County's collection of delinquent property taxes.

"Although we already collect approximately 95% of the property taxes owed to Milwaukee County, it has always been my goal to look at new ways to protect the taxpayers' hard earned money. This contract will help accomplish that goal," said Milwaukee County Treasurer David Cullen.

"The services provided through this contract are expected to return more money to taxpayers for relatively little cost, because the agency is paid on a commission basis."

Milwaukee County is under increased pressure to find innovative ways to generate new revenue, given the lack of increases in state and federal aid and the county's commitment to pay $4 million per year to help fund the new Milwaukee Bucks arena.

During debate on the bill to fund the new arena it was proposed that Milwaukee County turn over its debt collection to the state Department of Revenue.

"This contract with a private company provides many advantages to taxpayers over giving that authority to the State of Wisconsin. For example, it does not require additional government employees at the state or county, and the cost to the delinquent taxpayer is less than what the State of Wisconsin would charge, because the state would add a large fee on top of what is owed. The action I've taken today makes it more likely that the taxpayer can repay their debt and keep their property on the tax rolls.

"I want to thank County Executive Abele for his assistance with this project. His proposal to help fund Milwaukee County's $4 million annual commitment to a new arena by enhancing our debt collection process helped jump start this process," concluded Cullen.

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