



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors
Supervisor Sequanna Taylor, 2nd Vice-Chair, 2nd District
Supervisor Steven Shea, 8th District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Supervisors Shea and Taylor Propose Opening Local Warming Centers at 32 Degrees

MILWAUKEE – County Supervisors Steven Shea and Sequanna Taylor want to encourage local warming centers to open their doors to the homeless when the temperature drops below 32 degrees.

Currently, five privately operated Milwaukee area warming centers open when the temperature falls below 20 degrees.

Shea and Taylor co-sponsored a [resolution](#) that expresses support for the concept of a “Code Blue Emergency” policy, which would formalize the practice of opening when the outside air temperature dips below freezing.

"Housing is a basic human need and homelessness is a concern that we should be dealing with day-to-day. By encouraging warming centers to open at 32 degrees in the winter months we are working to ensure the safety of everyone in our community. Providing access to these services helps get folks on the path to get the resources they need for healthier lives," said Supervisor Taylor.

"As this past winter reminded us, Milwaukee County temperatures can be life threatening to the homeless. Access to warming centers can be the difference between life and death. I am happy to co-sponsor this resolution with Supervisor Taylor," said Supervisor Shea.

The Health and Human Needs Committee approved the resolution 5 to 0. It will come before the Board of Supervisors on April 25.

The resolution does not allocate any additional county funding for the expanded services, but calls upon corporate and philanthropic donors to support the initiative.

“Code Blue Emergency” is a designation used by the homeless services community in several US cities and counties.

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