

## Milwaukee County Board Chairman County Supervisor, 1st District

For Immediate Release October 20, 2015 Contact: Bill Zaferos, Public Information Manager 414/278-4230 or William.zaferos@milwaukeecountywi.gov

## <u>COUNTY EXECUTIVE CHRIS ABELE "HIDING" FROM PUBLIC</u> He Refuses Three Requests From County Board to Answer Questions in Public Forum

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele is "hiding from the public" by refusing to answer questions about his 2016 Proposed Budget, Chairman Theodore Lipscomb, Sr., said today.

The County Executive failed to appear as scheduled on October 13 and 16.

Lipscomb pointed out that Gov. Scott Walker, when he was County Executive, appeared before the Board to discuss details of his budgets.

Lipscomb added that Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett also appears before the Common Council to answer questions about public funds.

"We have offered the County Executive three scheduled opportunities to answer direct questions about his budget since it was released, and he continues to refuse," Lipscomb said. "This sets an unsettling precedent and stands in stark contrast to both Walker and Barrett.

"What is Abele hiding, and why is he hiding? Doesn't the public have a right to know what's going on?

"Instead of answering questions in a public forum, Abele is offering 17 individual private meetings with Supervisors. Taxpayers in Milwaukee County should ask themselves why the County Executive refuses to answer questions in public about how he is spending their money."

Abele's next scheduled to appear at a meeting of the County Board Committee of the Whole on Wednesday at 9 a.m.

###

