

## Lisa Tollefson

---

**From:** Carla Quirk <quirk.carla@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 10, 2020 10:10 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** Supervisor Ron Bomkamp's Resolution 20-5A-013

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Carla (Quirk) Buchanan  
7304 E County Rd MM, Janesville

Good evening,

I support Supervisor Ron Bomkamp's Resolution - "Encouraging The Rock County Health Department To Share The Address Of All Positive COVID-19 Tests With Local Government Agencies."

Please understand that the folks who would be privy to this sensitive information, would have already signed a confidentiality agreement form, stating that automatic termination will result, if any confidential information is disclosed. These individuals are educated, dedicated professionals, who take these issues, very, very, seriously.

We need to keep our First Responders safe, and having this valuable information will not only help them, but will ensure that they can give the patient, the best possible care. Forewarned is forearmed. Only those people who "need to know", will have the information.

I ask that the County Board of Supervisors support Supervisor Bomkamp's Resolution, by voting Yes. Thank you.

To the Rock County Health Department Board,

This is in response to the refusal of the Board to share the addresses of potential or confirmed COVID-19 patients, this vital information is imperative to assisting the First Responders and Medical staff in containing the virus we face.

Myself (Lt. Paul Martin) and MPO/PP Willie Brown have a combined 50 plus years of service, as retired frontline first responders, and we've dealt with virus outbreaks in the past, it was unnecessary additional stress responding to addresses, not knowing if the patient was a known infected person. If your major concern is the address would get out to the public, there's ways to prevent that from happening.

You can have the addresses placed under a color code, yellow for tested person waiting on results and red for confirmed, giving dispatch the ability to give a simple code over the computer or phone to responding units, helping prevent unintended infected first responders and public. If the health and well being of the first responders is not more important than addresses, then how will you attain proper staffing, once the first responders become infected and possibly infect others?

Requesting the ability to give a heads up to the first responders, who are working diligently, compassionately and dedicated to curbing, flattening and mitigating this pandemic, is not too much to ask. By giving first responders this small information, will allow them prepare mentally and be a reminder to make sure all responding units have, and are utilizing proper equipment. If your sole concern is mitigating the pandemic, then common sense is required, by giving those out on the frontline, what they need to do their job. This is not the time to be tying their hands.

Sincerely submitted,

Lt. Paul Martin and MPO/PP Willie Brown

To our Rock County Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to share my thoughts on agenda item 12 F, the resolution that would grant local government agencies access to addresses where positive Covid-19 cases have been identified. When I first heard about this resolution, I agreed that it seemed overly invasive and unnecessary. I understand that there is a sanctity to the confidentiality that we as a public rely on our Rock County Public Health Department to maintain. I also was under the impression that this would be a violation of HIPPA.

However, I came across a notice from the US Department of Health and Human Services from their Office for Civil Rights. It states: "A covered entity may disclose PHI to a first responder who may have been exposed to COVID-19, or may otherwise be at risk of contracting or spreading COVID-19, if the covered entity is authorized by law, such as state law, to notify persons as necessary in the conduct of a public health intervention or investigation. For example, HIPAA permits a covered county health department, in accordance with a state law, to disclose PHI to a police officer or other person who may come into contact with a person who tested positive for COVID-19, for purposes of preventing or controlling the spread of COVID-19. 45 CFR 164.512(b)(1)(iv)".

I am disheartened by how our federal government has inhibited state and local access to PPE and while of course all first responders should treat everyone they encounter as if they have Covid-19, it seems that with the scarcity of PPE resources it would be wise and respectful to those first responders to disclose this information so those who respond to households affected by Covid can gain priority access to PPE. We need to do everything we can to stop the spread and keep first responders safe. While as a Rock County resident I feel that confidentiality is highly important, we already invest trust in our first responders to maintain discretion about responding to calls such as drug overdoses and other highly personal matters, and I have faith that our agencies would use their highest discretion if they needed to respond to a Covid-19 situation.

Right now many of us are scared and uncertain and while I recognize the sensitivity of this matter, sharing this information to protect our first responders makes me feel that the county is doing everything in its power to prevent the spread of Covid-19 while protecting people on the front lines. Sharing address will keep people safe. I would also urge you to look for ways to ensure that all first responders, healthcare workers, and essential employees required to be on job sites get reasonable access to PPE.

Thank you for listening to my thoughts and concerns.

Respectfully,

Megan Miller  
Vice President of the Beloit Board of Education

1811 VISTA DR  
BELOIT WI 53511



May 14, 2020

Dear Administrator Josh Smith, Chairwoman Purviance, and Health Officer Marie Noel-Sandoval,

The City of Milton is in support of the order issued late last night adopting the orders No. 28, 43, and 36 that include Safer At Home and Badger Bounce Back elements from the State Of Wisconsin. Given the surge we are experiencing in Beloit that is not likely to be contained and how that is impacting communities of color disproportionately, this is the best option available,

In addition, our first responder staff, police and fire, would find it helpful to release information to command staff in these departments regarding COVID-19 infected homes following the HIPPA guidelines that allow this information to be shared. I have had to engage with families that have been exposed to this deadly virus and I have a small sense of what our first responders must face.

The passing of Supervisor Bomkamp's resolution would greatly help first responders in planning and preparing for the spread of the virus. The City of Milton does not have the manpower to be able to track these facilities or homes on our own. Next week is EMS week, let's show them we care about their well-being and pass this resolution.

We appreciate the stress the pandemic has placed on local government officials and support your strong and resolute approach to keeping our community safe.

Best Regards,

Mayor Welch

---

CITY COUNCIL

May 14, 2020

Dear members of the Rock County Board,

First, the City is deeply appreciative of the Rock County Health Director's swift action to enact local public health orders. We fully support that decision.

However the members of the Beloit City Council are asking that you support item 12F, in regard to COVID-19 information sharing. We would like to make sure you have the correct information before voting tonight. The Beloit City Council does not support an overreach of the County Board in suggesting the removal of any staff members. We do, however, support sharing information with key partners, which would not be publicly disclosed, but used for the support of Beloit's education and response efforts to COVID-19.

We have heard people ask the question, "Shouldn't first responders treat every call like someone is COVID-19 positive?" They do. The challenge is that we have limited PPE. Having key people in the police and fire departments know where hotspots are will let us conserve our limited supply.

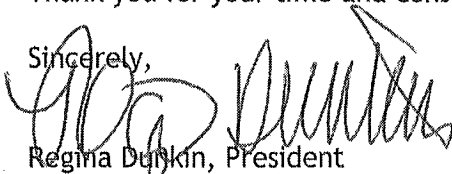
Another concern you may have involves HIPAA. It is not breaking HIPAA by sharing this information with other governmental agencies. In fact, there is an exception which allows for protected health information to be shared. According to Richard Greenlee, Corporation Counsel, "HIPAA does allow for the disclosure of PHI [protected health information] without informed consent of the patient when the disclosure is necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public." The County Health Department is protected and can share this information with other municipalities if the threat is serious enough. The COVID-19 outbreak is a serious threat to our entire public. Sharing information can help us contain the virus, ensure resources are sent to areas that need it most, and save lives.

Our first responders are bound by confidentiality. They are professionals who know and practice the importance of respecting the rights of COVID-19 victims. Safeguards are in place to ensure this information is kept confidential.

We know this is a challenging time. However, now is the time for us to work together in tackling this global pandemic. When we work together, we can be more effective and efficient with the limited resources we have. Please support your municipal partners, your neighbors, and first responders by voting "yes" on item 12F.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Regina Dunkin, President  
Clinton Anderson, Vice President  
Sherry Blakeley  
Nancy Forbeck  
Brittany Keyes  
Mark Preuschl

**To: Board of County Commissioners**

**From: Interim Chief Pease**

**Date: 05/07/2020**

**RE: Sharing of Information**

---

The Rock County Public Health Department and Beloit's public safety share responsibility for protecting the public and promoting its welfare. Their cooperation and collaboration are crucial to all components of emergency management: Prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery. Whether a public health emergency is caused by natural, accidental, viral or intentional means, data about the emergency and its impacts are crucial for both public health and public safety to carry out their respective functions. For this reason, "information sharing" is crucial for public safety and to assist in their strategic planning to help mitigate this health emergency.

The lack of cooperation local public safety agencies have received from Rock County Public Health has seriously strained the strategic efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the Beloit community. The information Rock County Public Health Department is trying to protect will not in any way be shared with the public. The primary and only use of this information is to proactively combat the spread within our community while protecting police and fire department personnel who are on the front lines of this pandemic.

Neighboring Health Departments recognize the need to share this vital information however the vision of Rock County Public Health Department is severely clouded if not blind. Rock County Public Health Department has communicated they do not have the resources to follow-up with contact tracing of positive individuals that reside in the Beloit community due to the volume of cases that are coming in. This unwillingness to cooperate with local municipalities to help mitigate the situation is fueling the spread of COVID-19 in Rock County and neighboring counties. This is a travesty that needs to be corrected!



Daniel Pease  
Interim Fire Chief



**Beloit**  
WISCONSIN

Chief David B. Zibolski  
City Hall  
100 State Street  
Beloit, Wisconsin 53511

608-364-6807 (Office)  
608-364-6608 (Fax)  
beloitwi.gov  
*Equal Opportunity Employer*

---

POLICE DEPARTMENT

May 13, 2020

Sent Via Email

TO: Honorable Board of Rock County Commissioners,  
FROM: David B. Zibolski, Chief of Police  
RE: Information sharing of COVID-19 information

Dear Commissioners,

As I am sure you would agree, the COVID-19 pandemic has placed unprecedented strains on both our community and its public safety officials. In crisis situations such as this, the importance of expeditious and accurate information sharing between public safety entities is critical to ensure the safety of the community, as well as the safety of those working to keep our community safe. As the pandemic situation in Rock County has now reached a point in which the resources of the Rock County Public Health Department are overwhelmed and unable to complete contact tracing in a timely fashion, it is even more critical that our law enforcement officers have real time information as to positive COVID-19 persons and locations in order to prevent unnecessary infection to these public servants.

In February of 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Civil Rights, issued a bulletin titled "HIPAA Privacy and Novel Corona Virus." That bulletin states in part: "Disclosures to Prevent a Serious and Imminent Threat - Healthcare providers may share patient information with anyone as necessary to prevent or lessen a serious and imminent threat to the health and safety of a person or the public - consistent with applicable law and the provider's standards of ethical conduct. See 45 CFR 164.512(j). Thus, providers may disclose a patient's health information to anyone who is in a position to prevent or lessen the serious and imminent threat, including family, friends, caregivers, and law enforcement without a patient's permission. HIPAA expressly defers to the professional judgement of health professionals in making determinations about the nature and severity of the threat to health and safety. See 45 CFR 164.512(j)"

This bulletin makes it clear that information regarding the identities and addresses of COVID-19 positive individuals could be provided to law enforcement in order to prevent community spread by ensuring that our officers, who are on the streets and in contact with people on a 24/7 basis, are aware of who those individuals are. The

current process, in which the Health Department provides only address information to the Rock County Dispatch Center, is completely short sided and belies the fact that our officers have a large majority of citizen contact in which they are not dispatched. Our officers, on a daily basis, are involved in a variety of criminal investigations, traffic and pedestrian contact, as well as observations that are made during their patrols in which they may stop and question individuals in and around a residence or at other locations in the city. Providing probable and positive COVID information to our law enforcement officers would not only increase their safety and allow them to ensure appropriate protections are put in place before contact, if necessary, but also assist the Health Department who is admittedly overwhelmed with the knowledge of any violations of quarantine or isolation orders.

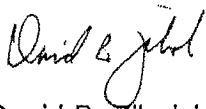
As noted in the US DHHS Bulletin, there is no legal restriction preventing the Health Department from providing this information to law enforcement and our fellow public safety professionals in the Fire and EMS service in order to prevent unnecessary exposure and/or spread. Further, many of my law enforcement colleagues across the state and in other counties are receiving this type of information from their public health authority without issue and without breach of confidentiality. Law enforcement on a regular basis handles confidential information and any implication to the contrary is without merit.

The issue at hand is not a legal one, but a philosophical one. It is incommensurate for the Rock County Public Health Department to state on one hand that they are overwhelmed and admittedly unable to perform timely contact tracing and/or issue timely and effective quarantine and isolation orders, while at the same time refusing to provide this critical public safety information to our law enforcement officers in deference to privacy arguments, when the very nature of the virus and its spread is latent in nature.

For all of the reasons noted above, I respectfully request that the board direct the release of COVID-19 positive and/or probable individuals and addresses to our law enforcement officers so that we may continue to work cooperatively to reduce community spread, identify violators of orders, and most importantly to prevent unnecessary exposure to our finite team of public servants. As we celebrate National Police Week, let's do what we can to prevent unnecessary exposure or loss of our public service professionals to this virus.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



David B. Zibolski  
Chief of Police



*ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN*

*Office of the Rock County Clerk  
51 South Main Street  
Janesville, WI 53545*

*Lisa Tollefson, Rock County Clerk*



*Office (608) 757-5660*

*Fax (608) 757-5662*

*[www.co.rock.wi.us](http://www.co.rock.wi.us)*

*[Lisa.Tollefson@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:Lisa.Tollefson@co.rock.wi.us)*

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF CANVASS

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

COURTHOUSE

SECOND FLOOR

Monday, April 13, 2020

9:00 A.M.

Board of Canvass Agenda

1. Open meeting
2. Set date and time to reconvene.
3. Adjourn.

§7.60(3) Canvassing. Not later than 9 a.m. on Tuesday after each election the county board of canvassers shall open and publicly examine the returns.

Due to Judge Conley's order municipalities cannot release results until after 4:00 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020. This meeting is set to meet the statutory requirement listed above and allow municipalities the time needed to return items to the county clerk.

Lisa Tollefson  
Rock County Clerk

Posted April 9, 2020

**Lisa Tollefson**

---

**From:** Jennifer Draz <jdraz@ywcarockco.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 14, 2020 10:28 AM  
**To:** PUBLIC COMMENT  
**Subject:** News Release for Record for YWCA Stand Against Racism Event



**For Immediate Release**  
**May 14, 2020**  
Jennifer Draz  
Communications Director  
YWCA Rock County  
P 608.352.2014 | jdraz@ywcarockco.com

**YWCA Rock County to hold a virtual Stand Against Racism event through the YWCA Rock County Facebook page.**

**Janesville, Wisconsin** – YWCA Rock County is hosting a virtual Stand Against Racism event on **May 18 at noon** through the [YWCA Rock County Facebook page](#). Stand Against Racism is a signature campaign of YWCA USA, meant to build community among those working for racial justice.

The theme for 2020 is civic engagement and Census participation. Ensuring access to voting and engaging marginalized communities in the political process are powerful tools for eliminating racism and creating a more inclusive democracy.

The 2020 Census provides another important opportunity for civic engagement. The results of the 2020 Census will determine the number of seats each state has in congress, shape the boundaries for voting districts and determine how more than \$675 billion in federal, state, and local funding supports communities around the country.

Traditionally, Stand Against Racism events are simultaneously held in Janesville and Beloit. However, due to COVID-19 and our duty to socially distance, one event will be held virtually through YWCA Rock County's Facebook page.

Speakers will share their stories on civic engagement in Rock County. **Speakers include;**

- Regina Dunkin - Beloit City Council President
- Patty Hernandez - Principal, TAGOS Leadership Academy, Janesville School District
- Anissa Welch - Mayor, City of Milton
- Jesus Leon Hernandez - Student Council President, Parker High School, Janesville

Attendees are also encouraged to share their stories and comments, as the speakers and YWCA Rock County staff will be on hand to offer additional commentary and answer any questions attendees may have.