

Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley: Applauds county board approval of Joe Lamers as Director of new Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance

Posted on Friday, Feb 4, 2022

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MILWAUKEE, WI - Today, the Milwaukee County Board unanimously approved the appointment of Joe Lamers as Director of the newly created Office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance.

“The County Board continues to be a great partner in moving resources upstream to help bridge the gaps in health disparities and I applaud their cooperation in reorganizing Milwaukee County government so that we can go even further in advancing race and health equity,” said Milwaukee County Executive David Crowley. “Director Lamers’ leadership has been integral to passing the last two County budgets which implemented our strategic plan to advance health and race equity – the first strategic plan in County government for over twenty years. Even at the height of the pandemic, we’ve been able to pass responsible budgets under his leadership that closed structural deficits and included no major cuts to critical services. I am glad the County Board shares the same confidence that I have in his ability to lead the new office of Strategy, Budget, and Performance and ensure that the County’s strategic plan is guiding our budget decision-making and not the other way around.”

Since 2018, Lamers has served as Milwaukee County’s Budget Director under the Department of Administrative Services where he successfully managed and led Milwaukee County’s \$1.3 billion annual budget process, including development of

the County Executive's Recommended Budget. Over the last 24 months of the pandemic, Lamers has also provided leadership over COVID-19 response efforts, including representation on the Emergency Operations Center and management of COVID-19 grants including \$77 million in CARES funds and \$183 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds. And, over the last year, Lamers managed and supported the implementation of the Grants and Special Projects Office which secured \$18 million in grants during its first year in existence. In his new role as Director of the Office of Strategy, Budget and Performance he will build upon these successes to continue to move the needle of achieving the bold vision of racial equity.

Lamers received both his Bachelor of Business Administration and his Master of Public Administration degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Before joining the County in 2018, Lamers served as the Assistant Deputy Commissioner at the New York City Department of Social Services from 2016-2018 where he provided administrative, financial, and budget oversight for the largest local social service district in the county, with a budget \$12 billion and 15,000 staff administering various social services programs.

He also served as the department's budget director from 2015-2016. In addition, Lamers served several policy analyst roles in New York City government from 2006-2010, including Medicaid Policy and Budget Analyst where, amongst other responsibilities, he made recommendations regarding local programming changes needed and fiscal impacts.