

# Sabrina Abuzahahra – Program Reflection

*Responding to constituent emails and letters was a huge, daily task of mine. It was my responsibility to respond to each and every constituent to the best of my ability...Residing in Milwaukee this Summer presented itself with challenges, for my neighbors were also my clients or constituents. Often times I would have intel about up and coming initiatives or referendums, but I had to be careful not to share it with the rest of my constituents. On the contrary, it was amazing to live alongside my constituents, for they would voice their concerns and more times than not I was able to help them or at least point them in the right direction with how to receive that help...Working for the Mayor presented itself with a lot of opportunities for interconnectedness between not only the city but also the entire state. I worked closely with MPS (Milwaukee Public Schools), MPD (Milwaukee Police Department), DNS (Department of Neighborhood Services), DPW (Department of Public Works), as well as Common Council.*

*Directly engaging, a core principle of the Badger Reach Program was applied in my internship on a daily basis. Each intern had the opportunity to be paired up with a permanent staff member to learn more about their position and contributions to the City. With a passion for education, I chose Myra Edwards, Senior Advisor to the Mayor, specializing in educational policies and serving as a liaison to Milwaukee Public Schools. Directly engaging with constituents, my community and the other City staff was vital to accomplishing tasks. As public servants, directly engaging is the only way to fulfill one's job... Not only did I grow as a communicator, student, and learner throughout this internship as well as the Badger Reach Program, but I also grew as a Milwaukeean...*