



JOE DUDZIK
Alderman, 11th District

VICE CHAIR
Finance and Personnel Committee

MEMBER
Licenses Committee
Public Safety Committee

Politics to blame for delays in rehabbing City Hall's top floor

Statement of Alderman Joe Dudzik April 4, 2014

For nearly a decade, the top floor of Milwaukee's iconic City Hall has sat empty, and I'm scratching my head as to why some of my colleagues on the Common Council seem willing, even eager, to allow that vacancy to continue.

Recent news reports quote my colleagues as insisting that the City Attorney is to blame, and that they had some sort of agreement that his plans for the eighth floor of City Hall would include a public space for special functions. The notion is ridiculous. No explicit agreement to that effect was ever included in talks over returning the City Attorney's office to its original location on the eighth floor.

If this project is delayed any further, it won't be because the desired floor plan is lacking anything. It will be because of the personalities of my colleagues whose responsibility it is to see to it that such projects get off the ground.

The simple fact is there are plenty of other spaces in which public functions can be held at City Hall—there's an entire rotunda, awesome in scale and grandeur, right in the heart of the building! These spaces are easily accessible and readily available. The City Attorney was willing to *try* and accommodate an additional public area in the footprint of the eighth floor. Just because that didn't work out, are we going to continue wasting valuable time and space?

The City Attorney's office has endured a temporary office for eight years, while the eighth floor of City Hall has sat unused. There's no logical reason to stand in the way of plans to remedy that.