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Ald. Bob Donovan
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MEDIA ADVISORY

File Urges Study of Consolidation or Merger of City, County, & MPS Services & Agencies

Legislation Authored by Alderman Bob Donovan Seeks to Eliminate Duplication, Overlap

A Common Council resolution authored by **Alderman Bob Donovan** to be introduced next week would put the city on record as supporting and proactively seeking the study of possible consolidation or merger of functions or departments of the city, Milwaukee County, and Milwaukee Public Schools where overlap or duplication of functions or services exists. In letters sent to Mayor Tom Barrett, County Executive Scott Walker and MPS Board of School Directors President Michael Bonds, Alderman Donovan introduces the measure as a means of initiating “long-overdue discussion” on possible consolidation of services and functions.

Alderman Donovan says he can’t understand why such a move (to study consolidation or merger) hasn’t been attempted before. “At a time when we’re furloughing police officers and ordering brown-outs for fire department personnel, it’s critical that we study possible consolidation and/or merger of services,” he said.

“We not only need to look at streamlining and creating efficiencies at how we deliver services, we need to return our focus to core services such as public safety, public works, infrastructure, and sanitation,” he said.

File No. 091100 (see attached) directs the city Department of Administration to arrange meetings with city, MPS, and county administrators and representatives of relevant departments/divisions to help identify departments or functions where there is overlap or duplication of services between or among the three units of government, and to then develop recommendations for the consolidation or merger of departments and functions “where substantial cost savings may be realized without a significant reduction in the level of services provided.” A report on findings and/or recommendations would be required within six months after the file is approved.

Alderman Donovan said functions such as finance, human resources, public works, employees’ retirement, health, and legal counsel appear to be provided by at least two of the three units and should be studied further for possible duplication and overlap.