

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



---

FOR INFORMATION CALL

---

June 22, 2011

**Ald. Michael Murphy**  
(414) 286-3763  
**Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr.**  
(414) 286-3771

## Common Council Members ask Governor to Veto Pay for Fired Officers

*State budget as is would repeal current law – a law that has saved Milwaukee taxpayers \$283,000 since it was passed in 2009*

Today a strong majority (11 members) of the Milwaukee Common Council sent a letter (**see attached**) to Governor Walker, asking that he veto a section of the state budget that repeals current law and requires the City of Milwaukee to pay fired police officers while their appeal is pending before the Fire and Police Commission.

**Alderman Michael J. Murphy**, chair of the Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, said the repeal was included in the state budget apparently to protect police officers from arbitrary personnel decisions by the police chief. He said Milwaukee police officers already have statutory protections from unwarranted discharge that no other officers or other public employees in the state have.

"The state statutes require the city to wait 60 days for a hearing and pay expenses for witnesses for the defense and require the chief to provide all exculpatory evidence to the accused," Alderman Murphy said. "In addition, we require the officer be given 10 days to respond and offer exculpatory evidence before charges are issued, and every firing by the chief is independently reviewed for legal sufficiency by the executive director of the Fire and Police Commission to immediately determine whether the chief's decision should be reversed."

Since the current law was passed in 2009, Alderman Murphy said, eight officers have been fired without pay saving taxpayers \$283,000. All have appealed to the Fire and Police Commission and none were reinstated. If they had been reinstated, they would have received all back pay and benefits under the current system, he said.

**-More-**

## **Council Asks for Veto/ADD ONE**

**Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr.** said that since the law was enacted, the Fire and Police Commission has adopted policy and procedures to ensure “a fair and just process for fired officers.”

“We don’t pay fired Sanitation workers accused of sexual assault, and we don’t pay fired library workers accused of being absent without leave. It simply makes no sense for the taxpayers of the City of Milwaukee to pay fired police officers,” President Hines said.

**-30-**