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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr.  
Ald. Michael Murphy  
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## Council Approved 2012 Budget Holds Property Taxes Steady

The 2012 amended city budget approved today by the Milwaukee Common Council essentially holds property taxes steady for city property owners.

The 2012 tax levy approved by the Common Council is \$248.008 million, or up 0.5% from 2011's \$246.703 million levy, and more than \$261,000 less than the Mayor's proposed 2012 budget levy.

The 2012 tax levy means the owner of an average city home valued at \$123,000 will see a \$12 increase in the city portion of the tax bill.

**Ald. Michael J. Murphy**, chair of the Council's Finance and Personnel Committee, said the 2012 adopted budget meets the state's directives for local government budgets and again reflects the Council's affirmation of residents' wishes for lower taxes and flat spending.

"Again the Council has acted responsibly by approving a city budget that holds property taxes steady and continues to keep a tight lid on spending," he said.

A key compromise today by the Council shifted more than \$1.6 million from a capital project involving office space improvements in the City Attorney's Office and instead sent that funding to street and alley improvements and the preservation of city housing stock. "This amendment sponsored by Alderman (Robert J.) Bauman has zero impact on the tax levy and it will help create jobs for Milwaukee residents," Alderman Murphy said.

A similar compromise on proposed capital funding for remodeling improvements to the Police Administration Building led to the approval of an amendment to instead use the \$5.5 million to lower the city's debt limit.

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## **Common Council Adopts 2012 Budget/ADD ONE**

The Council also unanimously approved changes in the Office of the Treasurer that scaled back the pay of the Treasurer effective with the new term in 2012, and which included eliminating the position of special deputy city treasurer. The move will save more than \$108,000 in eight months' time, with additional savings expected.

The Council unanimously approved an amendment sponsored by Alderman Terry L. Witkowski for a city study and inserted a budget footnote to establish the intent to purchase new ultra-high pressure fire suppression systems that can be mounted on pickup trucks with emergency medical technician kits. The study is due March 1, 2012 and will determine the feasibility of the move, which could provide significant savings in fuel and greatly reduce water damage to homes and businesses.

Common Council President Willie L. Hines, Jr. said the Finance and Personnel Committee and the Council handled the 2012 budget with a sense of compromise and diligence. "The hard work put in by the Council is again impressive, and I commend the leadership and guidance of Alderman Michael Murphy and the work of the Finance and Personnel Committee," President Hines said.

"The approved budget came in under the state's budget constraints, and hopefully city services won't be drastically compromised," he said.

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