



WILLIE L. HINES, JR.
15th District Alderman
Common Council President

June 22, 2011

ASHANTI HAMILTON
1st District Alderman

Governor Scott Walker
115 East Capitol
Madison, WI 53702

JOE DAVIS, SR.
2nd District Alderman

Dear Governor Walker:

NIK KOVAC
3rd District Alderman

We respectfully request that you veto Section 1715h of the 2011-13 Wisconsin State Budget. This section 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.

ROBERT J. BAUMAN
4th District Alderman

JAMES A. BOHL, JR.
5th District Alderman

It appears the intent of this provision is to protect police officers from arbitrary personnel decisions by the Chief. However, Milwaukee police already have statutory protections from unwarranted discharge that no other officers or frankly, no other public employee in the State has. Specifically, under sections in Chapter 62.50, the 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.

MILELE A. COGGS
6th District Alderwoman

WILLIE C. WADE
7th District Alderman

ROBERT G. DONOVAN
8th District Alderman

In Milwaukee, the Fire and Police Commission (FPC) is the only citizen board in Wisconsin that has independent full-time investigators that audit and review police internal investigations and have full access to all police reports. Since this law was enacted, the FPC has adopted policy and procedures to ensure a fair and just process for fired officers. For example, we require the officer be given 10 days to respond and offer exculpatory evidence before charges are issued, and we installed an early intervention software program designed to identify officers with personal or training issues to offer them assistance before a problem leads to a rule violation.

ROBERT W. PUENTE
9th District Alderman

MICHAEL J. MURPHY
10th District Alderman

JOSEPH A. DUDZIK
11th District Alderman

JAMES N. WITKOWIAK
12th District Alderman

Additionally, 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 this law was passed in 2009, 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.

TERRY L. WITKOWSKI
13th District Alderman

TONY ZIELINSKI
14th District Alderman

When this policy was added to the 2009-11 Wisconsin State Budget, we did not unanimously support it. However, since that time we have seen the process become streamlined and more efficient, adding protection of rights for officers, and providing a savings to Milwaukee taxpayers.

You have often said that the State needs to give local government the tools necessary to control costs. We couldn't agree more. In this case, the State has given us those tools and the proof is in the process efficiency and taxpayer savings we have achieved. Please keep this tool intact for the City of Milwaukee and its taxpayers and veto this repeal of current law.

Sincerely,



Willie L. Hines, Jr.



Ashanti Hamilton



Nik Kovac



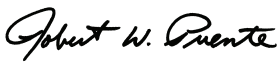
Robert J. Bauman



Milele A. Coggs



Willie C. Wade



Robert W. Puente



Michael J. Murphy



James N. Witkowiak



Terry L. Witkowski



Tony Zielinski

cc:

Rep. Robin Vos

Senator Alberta Darling