
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

March 9, 2012

Ald. Jim Witkowiak
(414) 286-3762

Council to weigh creation of enterprise programs advisory panel

At its next meeting (**March 20**), the Common Council will consider a resolution for immediate adoption establishing a Minority, Woman and Small Business Enterprise Programs Advisory Committee.

Alderman James N. Witkowiak, the sponsor of the resolution, said the advisory committee will be “a great asset” as the Council makes key decisions in the near future about city enterprise programs. He said an ordinance implementing the recommendations of the city disparity study, and replacing the City’s Emerging Business Enterprise Program with Minority, Woman and Small Business Enterprise Programs – approved by the Council in October 2011 (file # 110086) – established that an advisory committee could be established to review annually and make recommendations concerning the appropriate percentage goals for minority, woman and small business enterprise participation in city contracting activities.

Members of the committee would include representatives from the African American Chamber of Commerce, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Wisconsin, the U.S. Pan Asian Chamber of Commerce, the American Indian Chamber of Commerce, and others. Appointments would be made by the Common Council president and the Mayor.

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Advisory Committee/ADD ONE

“The advisory committee will be composed of representatives of the area’s minority, woman and small businesses, and would provide vital information and recommendations about how the programs are doing in terms of goals, and whether adjustments need to be made,” he said.

Having that level of focus and scrutiny by the advisory committee is also timely because Chapter 370 of the Code of Ordinances -- which provides for the creation of the enterprise programs -- is set to expire on January 1, 2015, unless the Common Council determines the necessity for the continuation of the programs, Alderman Witkowiak said.

According to Alderman Witkowiak’s resolution, the advisory committee would make recommendations to the Common Council by November 30, 2014, concerning the continuation of the programs and applicable percentage goals.

The full Council meeting on **Tuesday, March 20** will begin at **9 a.m. in the third floor Council Chamber at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.**