
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

January 29, 2018

Bill Arnold
(414) 286-3285

MEDIA ADVISORY

Aldermen ask City Attorney for legality of Paul Nannis' position

In the interest of transparency eight Common Council members are making the **attached letter** available to the public. It calls on Milwaukee's City Attorney to give an opinion on the legality of Paul Nannis' employment status. Mr. Nannis was appointed Commissioner of the Milwaukee Health Department by Mayor Tom Barrett and has reportedly already reported for work, but his appointment has not been confirmed by the full Common Council.

Mr. Nannis is a private citizen with access to health information and several Council members believe this could pose a liability risk.

President Ashanti Hamilton, Alderman Bob Donovan, Alderman Russell W. Stamper, II, Alderman Khalif J. Rainey, Alderman Mark A. Borkowski, Alderman José G. Pérez, Alderwoman Chantia Lewis, and Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs all signed the attached letter.

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CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, 200 E. Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202 • www.city.milwaukee.gov

January 29, 2018

Mr. Grant Langley
City Attorney
City Hall

Dear Mr. Langley,

With the Public Safety and Health Committee's decision last week to recommend against the confirmation of Mr. Paul Nannis as Commissioner of the Milwaukee Health Department, a number of questions occurred to us regarding Mr. Nannis' status within City government. It is certain that he cannot serve as commissioner without Common Council confirmation and he testified to the committee that he is not even on the City payroll. This leads us to believe that he has not received either an exempt or a regular appointment to any City position. If the foregoing be true, as we believe it is, we would ask the following:

1. Is it consistent with applicable laws and regulations that Mr. Nannis receive access to City facilities otherwise secured from the general public?
2. What authority, if any, does he have to hold meetings with City staff -- as he apparently has done?
3. Should Mr. Nannis have the milwaukee.gov e-mail address that he has apparently received?
4. On the assumption that he is assisting in the investigation of the failure of the Milwaukee Health Department to properly manage aspects of its lead abatement program, should he have access to employee e-mails, personnel documents, and other records?
5. Should Mr. Nannis have any access to the records kept by the Milwaukee Health Department relating to those affected by the lead abatement program? We would think that some of these records would be medical records governed by the Health Insurance Portability And Accountability Act?
6. If the answer to question #5 above is "no", what liability might the City have for disclosing information governed by the HIPAA to Mr. Nannis?

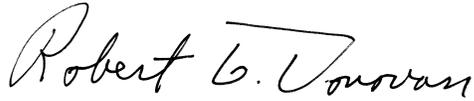
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As Mr. Nannis is on the job as of this writing, we would hope you would understand our request that these questions be answered as promptly as is possible.

Sincerely,



Ald. Ashanti Hamilton
Council President



Ald. Robert G. Donovan
Chair, Public Safety and Health Committee



Ald. Russell W. Stamper, II



Ald. Khalif J. Rainey



Ald. Mark A. Borkowski
Member, Public Safety and Health Committee



Ald. Jose G. Perez
Member, Public Safety and Health Committee



Ald. Chantia Lewis
Member, Public Safety and Health Committee



Ald. Milele A. Coggs

Cc: Deputy City Attorney Miriam Horwitz
Deputy City Attorney Mary Schanning
Deputy City Attorney Jan Smokowicz
Deputy City Attorney Adam Stephens