

# MILWAUKEE RETIREE ASSOCIATION

## RETIREE CHAPTER 48 AFSCME

P.O. Box 342055

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53234-2055

414-297-9215 (please leave message)

Email: [mrac48@yahoo.com](mailto:mrac48@yahoo.com)

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Vice-President: Thomas Hayes  
Treasurer: Michael Popowycz  
Secretary: Walter Powers

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December 7, 2013

The Honorable Common Council  
C/O The City Clerk  
Room 200, City Hall  
200 East Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Common Council Members:

Common Council File No. 131162, introduced by 11 Common Council members on November 26, 2013, would afford the Mayor a role in the administration of the ERS by allowing him to appoint 3 new members to the current 8 member ERS Board. If adopted, we believe this Charter Ordinance would diminish the historical role of both the Common Council and the elected representatives of the ERS participants by destroying the longstanding balance between the City and elected participants on the ERS Board. Because this existing balance has stood as a bulwark against abuses by either the City or Board participants, there should be maximum scrutiny before this proposal is adopted into law.

The MRA is very concerned that there has been neither advance notice of the proposal nor explanation of the reasons for its creation. We also do not know of any public or official discussion on the proposal.

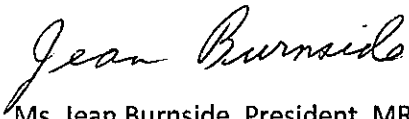
There have been several articles in the press detailing perceived abuses of our City's disability benefit but we have no way of knowing whether the proposal is related to these articles. If they are the basis for this proposal, be assured the MRA is as opposed to abuses of duty disability as is the City, because they siphon off funds which were set aside to pay our members' earned benefits. We stand ready to work with the City and our elected representative to make sure adequate safeguards are put in place.

The MRA believes the proposal, as it stands, has not been shown to be necessary or desirable. If adopted for the purpose of reducing disability abuse alone, the Charter Ordinance will only serve to reinforce the notion that the City has an ulterior motive of taking over the ERS. If the Common Council becomes indifferent to fostering distrust and hostility among its employees and retirees, it will not be serving the interests of the citizenry, who rely heavily upon these very City employees to responsibly deliver City services.

The MRA Board has authorized me to request that Common Council File No. 131162 be held indefinitely to give those affected an opportunity to better understand and address the underlying concerns that gave rise to this proposal and to afford all participants the opportunity for a public discussion of their point of view.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Ms. Jean Burnside, President, MRA