



Tom Barrett
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

December 30, 2013

To the Honorable, the Common Council
of the City of Milwaukee

Honorable Members of the Common Council:

I have vetoed File number 130781, a "resolution effectuating the intent of an amendment and footnote to the 2014 adopted budget directing any change of 10% or \$100,000, whichever is less, in funding of any propose under the Strong Neighborhood Investment Plan, shall require Common Council approval before the expenditure is authorized to be made."

The Strong Neighborhood Investment Plan (SNIP) is a comprehensive response to the foreclosure crisis in our community. The scale of the challenges our city faces is without precedent; the impacts on our residents are enormous; and the effects on our near-and long-term fiscal health are significant. The Common Council and I worked together to create the SNIP program to address issues arising from foreclosures promptly and thoroughly.

I strongly support transparency and accountability in all government programs. We have that in the SNIP program. The Council has allocated resources through the city's budget process and city departments follow long-established financial accountability measures in coordination with the independent Comptroller. None of that will change as the SNIP program moves forward in 2014.

The additional bureaucratic process imposed by Council file number 130781 is unnecessary. My concern is that it could create an impediment to the work needed to mitigate the impacts of foreclosures on our city. The language included in Resolution 130781, in particular the phrase "whichever is less," could create inefficiencies in the execution of the plan and hinder the timely deployment of resources and services to our community.

I agree that the Common Council plays an important role in overseeing city resources. I would be happy to work with you to achieve that goal through a collaborative and efficient process.

Vetoing this legislation would make the footnote void.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Mayor