

## **Department of Employee Relations**

June 11, 2014

Tom Barrett Mayor

Maria Monteagudo Director

Michael Brady Employee Benefits Director

Deborah Ford Labor Negotiator

Alderman Nik Kovac, Chairman City of Milwaukee Common Council Finance and Personnel Committee 200 East Wells Street, Room 205

Milwaukee, WI 53202

File No: 140077 authorizing the Department of Employee Relations to proceed with a pilot program that would provide nurse practitioner services in the wellness center up to 20 hours per week

Dear Alderman Kovac and Finance Committee Members:

The City of Milwaukee provides health benefits and prescription drug benefits to all active employees. In order to support members who are making good decisions about their health and in order to control the growing cost of health benefits, the Department of Employee Relations (DER) is recommending a pilot program through Workforce Health that would place a nurse practitioner in the Wellness Center up to twenty hours per week.

The services would be available to active employees and their spouses at no cost. The Department understands that other employers have found this a positive benefit and an opportunity to help employees avoid costly visits with a provider, with an urgent care center or at an emergency room. The services also allow an employee to get back or stay at work and avoid minor illness.

The Department of Employee Relations (DER) will work with Workforce Health and present a contract to Finance and Personnel. The DER will work with the Department of Public Works to identify the most appropriate space for such services within the City Hall complex. The DER would implement this as soon as feasible, but does have details that need to be worked out.

Thank you for an opportunity to move forward with this proposal that will provide additional options for active City employees and their spouses.

Please contact me if you have any additional comments or questions regarding this file.

Sincerely,

Michael Brady, **Employee Benefits** 

CC: Maria Monteagudo, DER

Deborah Ford, Labor Renee Joos, DER

Ellen Tangen, City Attorney's Office

Mary Turk, LRB

Dennis Yaccarino, Budget Office

