

MARVIN E. PRATT
Alderman, 1st District



COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Office: (414) 286-2221

January 31, 2001

Ald. Fredrick G. Gordon, Chair, Finance & Personnel Ctee.
Ald. Suzanne M. Breier, V-Chair
Ald. Paul A. Henningsen, Mbr.
Ald. Michael S. D'Amato, Mbr.
Ald. Willie L. Hines, Jr., Mbr.
City Hall, Rm. 205
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Ald. Gordon & Members:

In recognition of the fact that the City of Milwaukee is expecting to incur a shortfall of \$10 million or more in the 2001 budget and in consideration that there is an apparent need for the City to borrow up to \$20 million in funds to make up that deficit, I feel that we need to consider other possible measures to reduce costs in anticipation of the 2002 budget deliberations.

As a result, I would like to discuss with the Committee at your meeting tomorrow, Wednesday, January 31, 2001, the following:

1. Consideration of re-instituting the modified hiring freeze that was implemented in 1997. It would continue to exclude the protective services (Fire & Police), but it would cover all other units of City government, including upper-level management.
2. I've had meetings with Ald. Bob Donovan and Ald. Don Richards, Chair of the Community Development Policy Committee, to discuss using CDBG funds to pay for inspection positions in the Department of Neighborhood Services that impact on the CDBG target area. The intent is to remove them from the Operations & Maintenance budget and relieve the property tax. It is HUD permissible and I believe we should move in that direction for our next budget.
3. We need to bring about closure to the Summerfest negotiations so that we can anticipate increased revenues for the 2002 budget.

Letter to F&P Committee
January 31, 2001

Letter to F&P Committee
January 31, 2001
Page 2

4. We need to consider increased license fees and forfeitures so that we can anticipate increased revenues for the 2002 budget.
5. As a longer term proposition, perhaps for the 2003 budget, we need to examine whether we can achieve coordination of healthcare benefits between the City of Milwaukee, the County of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Public Schools System. Are there ways we could achieve greater cost effective means of providing those services through better coordination?

I look forward to the opportunity to discuss these matters with the members of the Committee and all of the members of the Common Council.

Sincerely,



MARVIN E. PRATT
1st District Alderman
Common Council President

Copies: Members of the Common Council

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