

DISCHARGE NOTICE

Distribute a copy to:

- Employee
- Employee Representative
- Department File
- Employees' Retirement System
- Dept. of Employee Relations – send within 48 hours to DERpersonnelforms@milwaukee.gov

Employee:	Christopher Wanty	Employee ID No.:	<u>012519</u>
Department:	Comptroller's Office	Race:	White
		Gender:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female
Division:	General Accounting	Div. No.:	211
		Payroll Loc. No.:	02
Job Title:	Accounting Manager	Immediate Supervisor:	Rick Bare

In accordance with City Service Commission Rules, you are hereby discharged effective at 4:45 (am/pm) on 9/12/2025 (date) for violating Rule XIV, Section 12, Paragraphs k, l, and q of the City Service Rules. You have three days from the receipt of this notice to file an appeal. See Right of Appeal information below.

I. Description of Offense:

- Mr. Wanty approved an ACH Vendor Payment Authorization Form on October 4, 2024, despite the ACH Authorization form and bank verification letter including numerous, egregious abnormalities. Mr. Wanty's lack of attention and follow-up relative to these abnormalities contributed to the City of Milwaukee making over \$150,000 in payments to a fraudulent actor. Mr. Wanty received numerous emails from his own team and from other departments that alerted him to the fraud after it was discovered. When asked whether he recalled receiving the emails at his pre-discharge meeting on September 10, 2025, he took no accountability, stating that other people also received many of the emails and he thought the emails directly sent to him were merely for informational purposes. Additionally, Mr. Wanty did not communicate the scam to the Comptroller and Deputy Comptroller, who would have pushed to strengthen the ACH set up controls at that time. Because additional controls were not established, a \$460,866.13 payment was made in 2025 to a bad actor, which necessitated the involvement of the Milwaukee Police Department and the controls of Capital One to recover. In investigating the latter situation, the Comptroller learned of the fraudulent payments made related to the October 4, 2024 ACH Vendor Payment Authorization Form.
- The Comptroller's Office launched a major initiative, called "The Resiliency Project," in the second half of 2024 to document job activities and procedures with due dates for both. All employees in the Comptroller's Office had as Objective #1 in their 2024-2025 Objectives: "Job activities list is thorough, accurate, and up-to-date. Job procedures are fully documented, comprehensive, accurate, up-to-date, and presented in an easily understandable manner. Job activities list and procedures were submitted by the due date." The due date for this project was August 30, 2024. Mr. Wanty had uploaded zero procedures to his procedures folder in OneDrive as of August 13, 2025, the date he was placed on administrative leave. When asked during his pre-discharge meeting why he had not uploaded any procedures, he indicated that it was not a high priority. The purpose of making it Objective #1 for all employees in the Comptroller's Office's 2024-2025 objectives is that the Comptroller identified it as a high priority. Mr. Wanty's actions put the City of Milwaukee in a difficult position in the event of an absence or vacancy in the Accounting Manager position.
- Per the job description, the Accounting Manager is responsible for managing the timeliness and accuracy of all financial transactions of the City, directing, supervising and managing the accounts payable processes and



advis[ing] and instruct[ing] all (sic) city departments and comptroller staff on voucher preparation questions, processing procedures, account distributions, corrections processes, and resolving accounting and timing issues." Mr. Wanty's failure to perform the duties required of the position posed a significant financial risk to the City of Milwaukee and violated Rule XIV, Section 12, Paragraphs k, l and q of the Rules of the City Service Commission.

II. Previous Disciplinary Actions including Warning Letters:

Verbal Warning on 5/17/2022

Missed deadlines set for the annual financial statement audit. The timeline for the overall audit engagement was established and agreed upon in January 2022 between Baker Tilly (the External Auditor) and the Comptroller's office. The deadline to provide the 2021 trial balances to the External Auditor was the end of the business day April 29, 2022. The trial balances were supplied at 2:00 p.m. on May 3, 2022. The providing of trial (sic) balances is the critical first step in the audit process and resulted in Baker Tilly being delayed from beginning field work.

The essential functions of the Accounting Manager include managing the timeliness and accuracy of all financial transactions for the City and preparing the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Project management of the annual audit is critical to meet these essential functions; missing deadlines is unacceptable performance.

<p>DATES REQUIRED: 1. Date of investigatory meeting: 9/10/2025 2. Date Discharge notice was provided to the employee or notice was mailed to the employee: Date: 9/11/2025</p>	<p>Reporting Authority Signature: <i>Charles Roedel</i></p>
	<p>Please print name: Charles Roedel</p>
<p>RIGHT OF APPEAL: Regularly appointed Civil Service employees (those who have completed their probationary period) may appeal in writing to the City Service Commission within three days of receipt of this notice. Employees of a department under the supervision of a board or commission of three or more members must appeal to that board or commission.</p>	<p>Title: Deputy Comptroller</p>
	<p>Date: 9/11/2025</p>
	<p>Appointing Authority Signature: <i>Charles Roedel</i></p>
	<p>Please print name: Charles Roedel</p>
<p>NOTE: If you have been issued an employee identification card, it must be turned in to your supervisor before your final paycheck will be released.</p>	<p>Title: Deputy Comptroller</p>
	<p>Date: 9/11/2025</p>





City Service Commission APPEAL OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION FORM

Pursuant to Rule XIV (Discharge, Appeal, Hearing), Section 2 of the Rules of the Board of City Service Commissioners (the Commission), a regularly appointed employee who has passed his/her probationary period may appeal a discharge, reduction (involuntary demotion), a second suspension within six months of a former one or any suspension exceeding fifteen working days in length. The time limit to file an appeal ends at 4:45 p.m. on the third business day following receipt of written notification of the disciplinary action. An appeal is filed when it is received and time-stamped by the Department of Employee Relations on behalf of the Commission. The Department of Employee Relations is located at City Hall, 200 East Wells Street, Room 706, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3515. An appeal may also be filed by electronic transmission to the following email address: elmoor@milwaukee.gov by FAX to the following number: (414) 286-0203, Attention: Elizabeth Moore.

Appellants are encouraged to review the **Guidelines for Disciplinary Appeals to the City Service Commission** located at: <http://city.milwaukee.gov/der/csc/FormsDocs>

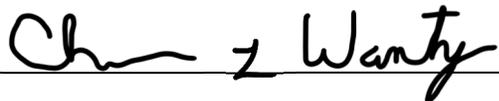
Please complete the form below to appeal a qualifying disciplinary action.

I appeal the following disciplinary action, pursuant to Rule XIV, Section 2 of the Rules of the Board of City Service Commissioners (*check one*):

- Discharge
- Reduction in classification (involuntary demotion)
- Second suspension within six months of a former one (Date of 1st suspension: _____)
- Suspension exceeding 15 days

I received written notification of the disciplinary action that I am appealing on: 9-11-2025. Please attach the disciplinary notice for the action that you are appealing. **Please attach a brief statement indicating the basis of your appeal.**

This appeal is dated this 12th day of September 2025.

Signature of appellant: 

Name of appellant (please print):	Christopher L. Wanty
Appellant's Department/Division:	Comptroller / General Accounting
Appellant will be represented by:	Chris Donahoe / Martha L. Burke Hawks Quindel, S.C (Attorneys)
Contact information (phone number):	Phone: 414-271-8650
(email address):	Email: cdonhoe@hq-law.com / mburke@hq-law.com
<i>Appellant's Contact Information:</i>	
Primary phone number:	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]
	[REDACTED]

Please write a brief statement indicating the basis of your appeal (*attach to Form*):

I am appealing against the decision to discharge because I do not believe there is just cause.