



Tom Barrett  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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November 15, 2010

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

Dear President Hines and Common Council Members:

I have signed the 2011 City Budget as it was adopted by the Common Council. In so doing, I have elected not to exercise my veto authority.

The 2011 City Budget reflects the positive impact of difficult decisions that we made in the 2010 Budget to improve budget sustainability. I am very pleased that the Council approved my 2011 Budget proposal to make a voluntary contribution to the Employer's Reserve for future pension contributions that was unprecedented in its size. In addition, the budget that you adopted approves my proposed increases to core infrastructure and preserves our very strong Police and Fire Department service capacity.

The Common Council, through the leadership of the Finance and Personnel Committee, demonstrated considerable responsibility in its approach to amendments. My primary concern is with Amendment #15A which relies on questionable assumptions about 2011 Workers Compensation claims experience to provide additional overtime funding for the Milwaukee Police Department. My Administration will monitor the impact of this amendment on 2011 Contingent Fund exposure and will recommend appropriate adjustments during the year, if necessary.

It's important that we view the progress we have made over the last two years as initial steps toward addressing significant challenges that are ahead. These challenges include future pension contributions, health care benefit costs and the commitment of State Government to State Shared Revenue. The City will need to make major adjustments to our current cost structure and service delivery to meet these challenges in a fiscally responsible manner.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Barrett  
Mayor

