Reply to Common Council File No. 051498 From DOA-Budget and Management Division

January 8, 2009

Ref: 06012

Common Council File 051498 contains a communication from the Department of Employee Relations regarding their investigation of options for reducing health care costs while retaining the highest quality health care coverage.

Specifically the Common Council asked DER to evaluate the feasibility of joining the Business Health Care Group of Southeastern Wisconsin (BHCG). At this time DER is recommending that the city support BHCG but not join the group. It appears that the BHCG "plan" would cost the city more, benefits are not the same as the negotiated benefits, and the "plan" does not include Covenant doctors or hospitals.

RECOMMENDATION: PLACE COMMON COUNCIL FILE 051498 ON FILE

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City Economist

DY:dmr

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