



**Department of the
Municipal Court**

Kristine M. Hinrichs
Chief Court Administrator

August 24, 2006

Ms. Terry MacDonald
Staff Assistant to the Finance & Personnel Committee
Room 205
City Hall
200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee, WI

Dear Ms. MacDonalds,

Pursuant to the provisions of File Number 060324, the Municipal Court is reporting on all positions vacant since July 1, 2005.

The Common Council is aware that the Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court is authorized to appoint up to five part-time Municipal Court Commissioners. The number of commissioners employed at any one time is dependent upon the case volume at the Court. These commissioners currently share a budgetary allocation of 1000 hours annually – in salary grade 950 at an hourly rate of \$44.23. The positions are not eligible for any benefits and are funded by the operating budget.

On July 1, 2005 the following Commissioner positions were vacant:

- Richard Krill – resigned effective May 10, 2004.
- Michael Kopp – resigned effective June 6, 2005

It is important to note that, while both of these positions were vacant on July 1, 2006, the position occupied by Commissioner Kopp has been filled.

The Court uses the commissioners for hearings involving defendants in custody at the Milwaukee County Criminal Justice Facility (CJF) on Municipal warrants and to conduct pre-trials involving traffic cases. They provide a valuable service to the Court by handling the off-site hearings for the in-custody defendants as well as traffic pre-trials. Their actual schedule is based upon the number of these hearings and the number of pre-

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trials scheduled. As overall case filings increase, the judges schedule a larger number of pre-trials for the commissioners – so that the judges can devote court time to other cases. Conversely, as the filings decrease, the pre-trial schedule is reduced. In this manner, the commissioners provide a great amount of flexibility in the system at a very low cost to the City. The judges intend to retain the position authority for all five positions in order to maintain the greatest amount of flexibility to respond to ever-changing circumstances. For your information, the commissioners must reside in the City of Milwaukee at the time of employment and must be attorneys licensed to practice law in Wisconsin.

I would be happy to respond to any questions that the Common Council has regarding these vacancies – or any other aspect of Court operations.

Sincerely,



Kristine M. Hinrichs
Chief Court Administrator
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cc: Presiding Judge Derek C. Mosley
Judge James A. Gramling, Jr.
Judge Valarie A. Hill