

Elmer, Linda

From: Paul Spink <PSpink@afscme32.org>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 11:58 AM
To: Elmer, Linda
Cc: Patrick Wycoff; Mark Pelzek
Subject: Comments regarding the Sales tax

Ms. Elmer,

The would very much appreciate it if you could add the following comments to the file for Agenda item #8 on today's steering and rules committee meeting.

Thank you

Chair Perez and members of the steering and rules committee,

My name is Paul Spink, I am a resident of Milwaukee's 14th aldermanic district and I am the President of AFSCME in the State of Wisconsin. I am writing today to speak in favor of the City of Milwaukee adopting the 2% sales tax permitted under Wisconsin Act 12. As a city resident and as someone who represents a significant number of general city employees and by extension many city retirees, I can absolutely see the flaws and injustices that are inherent in the options put forward for our city. The loss of control over our own internal policies and the addition of mandatory future budget obligations are unfair. The use of a regressive sales tax is less than ideal. Those of us who live, work and pay taxes in Milwaukee clearly deserved better. However, the restrictions which handcuff us are in place regardless of our acceptance of the sales tax. No action by the common council can remove those limitations that have been signed into law by our state legislature and our Governor.

However, the common council can take the limited tools offered to us and use them to help realize the potential of this city. We can hopefully avoid a collapse of city services resembling what happened to Detroit. We can hopefully avoid hundreds of city general employees and potentially hundreds or even thousands of resident retirees in every neighborhood losing their income and potentially their home. Both as a city resident who depends upon the city services most likely to be cut if we reject the sales tax and as a representative of the employees most likely to be the victims of the inevitable budget cuts, I sincerely hope you adopt the one option we have to limit the harm to our entire community. Take action to adopt the sale tax and allow this city the opportunity to live and fight for a fairer deal in the future.

Thank you,

Paul Spink, AFSCME Council 32