

To: Common Council Members

From: Sam Purdy
Business Representative
IBEW LU 494
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The 2007 Proposed Budget calls for the elimination of three Electrical Mechanics. This come at a time when Facility Maintenance is already short handed. The fact that the electrical needs are being met for the 80 some buildings the city maintains is the result of the highly skilled Electrical Mechanic staff employed by the City. But even with this skilled staff, the City has to sub-contract out electrical work to outside contractors.

The wage rate for City Electrical Mechanic is 97% of the outside rate. The City and outside benefits are a wash. That means the city saves 3% of the outside rate for every hour the city performs the work instead sub-contracting out.

The next issue is, if the City lays off Mechanics, the City will lose the capability to sub-contract electrical work. This is because of the agreement entered into by the City of Milwaukee and Local Union 494 which states the City can not sub-contract work when Electrical Mechanics are laid off.

But even if the city could layoff and sub-contract out work there is an added cost to the City and no saving. To start with there is the 3% added cost for outside electricians plus the contractor's markup. The same three former City electricians, who are now working for the contractor, sub by the city, and living outside the city would be and much grater cost to the city with no return of revenues to the city.

The most efficient and cost effective way to maintain the city Facilities is to keep the current staffing numbers and not the elimination of three Electrical Mechanics. As I stated above the Electrical Mechanics are very skilled and dedicated Employee. But there is a braking point when the workload becomes to overwhelming and the productivity goes out the window.

Please take this under consideration when putting the final budget together.

Thank you,