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## MEMORANDUM

To: Alderman Michael D'Amato, Judiciary & Legislation Committee Chair  
Alderman Ashanti Hamilton, Judiciary & Legislation Committee Vice Chair  
Alderman Robert Bauman, Judiciary & Legislation Committee Member  
Alderman James Bohl, Judiciary & Legislation Committee Member  
Alderman Michael Murphy, Judiciary & Legislation Committee Member

From: Clarice Hall Moore, Assistant Court Administrator  
Milwaukee Municipal Court

Date: November 6, 2007

RE: Disposal of Old Warrants and Commitments

This memorandum is in response to the question raised at the November 5, 2007, meeting by Aldermen Bohl and Murphy regarding an explanation of the reason the Court requests approval to dispose of cases on which there has been no activity for seven or more years. It is important to note that "no activity" in this instance means no activity of any kind has occurred on these cases for over seven years including no arrests on other charges by Milwaukee Police Department and no successful enforcement of collection through the Office of the City Attorney. Moreover, many of these 1998 and 1999 cases do not have judgments imposed and have open warrants for failure to appear at arraignment.

According to our records, the Court has been withdrawing old warrants and commitments since the early 1980's. Initially, the judges decided to use a ten-year threshold to qualify the cases for disposal; but later decided that a case is more than likely uncollectible if no action occurs on that case for seven or more years. Essentially, a case remains "open" until the judgment is satisfied monetarily or through other alternatives such as community service, driver's license suspension, or commitment. This means a case could remain in active status for an eternity. Withdrawing the warrants and commitments and permanently staying the forfeiture portions of the judgments "close" the cases and thereby make them eligible for purging allowing the Court to expend more of its limited resources on cases for which the forfeiture is more likely collectible.

I hope this memorandum provides you with the information needed to recommend approval of the Court's request; however, should you have additional questions feel free to contact Presiding Judge Derek Mosley.