



Department of Administration

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Sharon Robinson
Director of Administration

April 22, 2010

Honorable Members
Finance & Personnel Committee
City Hall, Room 205

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing to request an extension to temporary position authority for the position of Environmental Sustainability Director-Temporary, which the Committee authorized for the period ending May 8, 2010. This extension, if authorized, will be for a period not to exceed 45 days, beginning May 9, 2010 and ending June 22, 2010.

This position was created to fill a management void when the Director of the Office of Environmental Sustainability slot became vacant. The competitive selection process to fill this position is well underway. It is anticipated that an appointment will be made, subject to Common Council confirmation, by early June.

This position was created and warrants an extension for the following reasons:

1. The Department of Administration requires a position that has the sole management responsibility for daily operations of the Office of Environmental Sustainability, including American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grants management. The position is responsible for administering the City's \$5.8 million Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) formula award. It will also manage the City's portion of a \$20 million EECBG competitive award to the cities of Milwaukee, Madison and Racine announced by the White House just yesterday. Both awards will allow the City to build on its efforts to overcome barriers to retrofit public, commercial and residential properties. In addition to replacing outdated and inefficient fixtures with the latest in conservation technology, the project provides job training and employment opportunities for local residents.
2. The position is also responsible for developing and implementing policy initiatives in consultation with the Mayor and Common Council related to environmental sustainability. It is the frontline contact for rapidly responding to policy, budget and other financial implications resulting from newly imposed federal guidelines, timelines and milestones associated with ARRA grants.
3. The nature of the position's responsibilities and the need for continuity to its multiple liaisons make it impractical to assign these duties to multiple positions. In fact, this would diminish our current efforts to position Milwaukee as a leader and innovator on environmental sustainability and promote economic growth in the green industry.

It is also important to note that the extension of this position has no tax levy impact, as the position is funded entirely through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant.

Equally important, the Steering and Rules Committee has indicated that ensuring adequate administration of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds should be a high priority. This position is critical to achieving that objective.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Sharon Robinson

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