

American Sewer Services, Inc.

Public Works Contractor

N2768 County Road P
Rubicon, WI 53078

Phone: (262) 673-3100
Fax: (262) 673-4300

December 15, 2017

Alderman Ashanti Hamilton

Common Council President

Milwaukee Common Council

200 E Wells Street

City Hall, Room 205

Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: 171316 Communication from the American Sewer Company relating to recent incidents involving its employees and certain company policies.

Dear President Hamilton;

It is with regret that I must inform you that I cannot attend the hearing of the Steering and Rules Committee scheduled for 10:00 AM on December the 18th, 2017 because of medical Concerns. I want to thank you for re-scheduling this meeting once before in order to accommodate my medical procedures. At the time, I thought I might be able to appear before the committee at a later date. Unfortunately, it has become clear to me and my doctors that I will not be able to attend at all.

I've attached the testimony I had planned to give at the meeting so that you may understand how seriously I take this matter. One of my employees will appear on my behalf to read this statement as a show of my respect for you, your colleagues and the process. Unfortunately, this employee will not be able to answer questions from the committee nor offer any real meaningful input. I apologize for that inconvenience. I plan to reach out to all the members of this committee over the coming weeks so that I may meet with them individually to discuss these matters in depth and to hear any suggestions they may have. I hope any thoughts of punitive action will wait until after those meetings so I might better understand what more is expected of me beyond the swift and decisive action of firing the offending employees and the adoption of new company policies that will help eliminate any recurrence of these incidences.

I very much appreciate you taking the time to meet with me over the weekend face-to-face to discuss these incidents as well as broaching the broader issue of minority hiring by city contractors. I think you can also appreciate that my experience on the ground over the past 30 years can contribute to future discussions regarding increasing the number of minority residents working on city contracts.

While these past few weeks have been trying on my personal health, I've been encouraged by all the people who've expressed their support for me and our company - from area labor leaders to the people in the Washington Park neighborhood who remembered how we assisted them with their community celebration. It's a true blessing to have the people who know you best volunteer to come out in support during your time of need.

I want to thank you again for your understanding of my health concerns and for taking the time to meet with me. I look forward to meeting again in the coming weeks to follow up on any questions, concerns or suggestions the committee may have.

DB