



Tom Barrett  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

November 22, 2005

Common Council President Willie Hines  
Milwaukee Common Council Members

Dear President Hines and Council Members:

I have signed the 2006 City of Milwaukee budget as adopted by the Common Council. In so doing, I chose not to exercise my veto authority.

The 2006 City Budget was a challenge for the Executive and Legislative branches. The Budget meets the State's levy limits and maintains the City's eligibility for 2007 State Expenditure Restraint payments. The adopted budget meets my desired level of reserve fund withdrawals and maintains my priorities in the areas of public safety, economic development and neighborhood services. I appreciate the Council's commitment to those areas and, to my three year budget plan.

Hard choices will be before us again next year. I thank those Council members who publicly acknowledged that fire fighter and police staffing issues must continue to be discussed and evaluated in the 2007 budget. As we continue to make City Government more efficient, productive and responsive to community needs, we must agree to tackle the tough issues together.

I look forward to working with the Council on the 2007 City Budget.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett  
Mayor