



The Board of Ethics

June 2, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council
200 E. Wells St.
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

To the Honorable, the Common Council

RE: Complaint Recommending Removal of Members of City of Milwaukee Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

Honorable Members:

Every year, City of Milwaukee "Officials," as that term is defined in MCO § 303-3-9, are required to file a statement of economic interests with the Ethics Board. For most Officials, statements of economic interest are due on **February 28th**. Prior to that date, the Ethics Board sends out emails to all Officials reminding them when their Statements are due. For the 2020 cycle, the Ethics Board sent out reminder emails on **December 30, 2020**, **February 17, 2021**, and **February 27, 2021**.

If an Official fails to file their Statement by February 28th, a series of emails are sent to the Official to inform them that they are late in filing their statement. This year, an initial email was sent out on **March 4, 2021** to all Officials who had not filed their Statements yet.

Shortly before a 10-day grace period for filing Statements has lapsed, another email is sent out, informing the Official that he or she will start to accrue late fees if their Statement is not filed by the next day. This year, that email was sent out **on March 10, 2021**.

Officials who have not filed their Statements by the following day receive another email informing them that late fees have begun to accrue. This year, that email was sent out on **March 11, 2021**.

If 15 days have passed since the date that their Statement was due, and an Official has still failed to file their Statement, an email is sent to the appropriate appointing authority advising them of the failure of an official or employee to file their required

Statement, pursuant to MCO § 303-11-2(b). This year, that email was sent out on **March 15, 2021**.

If 30 days from the date the Statement was due have passed, and an Official has still failed to file their Statement, the Ethics Board mails a certified letter to the Official's last known address, informing the Official that their Statement is still outstanding, pursuant to MCO § 303-11-2(c). The certified letter also informs all Officials who are members of City of Milwaukee boards, commissions, or committees that if their Statements, along with any late fees, are not received within 45 days of the date their Statement was due, the Ethics Board is required to recommend to the Common Council that the Official be removed from his or her respective board, committee, or commission. This year, those letters were sent out on **April 5, 2021**. As a courtesy, an email with a copy of the certified letter was emailed to the Officials that same day.

If 45 days from the date the Statement was due have passed, and an Official who is a member of a City of Milwaukee board, committee, or commission has still failed to file their Statement, the Ethics Code, MCO § 303-11-2(e) mandates that the Ethics Board file a complaint with the Common Council, recommending that these Officials be removed from their respective boards, committees, or commissions in accordance with the provisions set forth in Wis. Stat. § 17.12, and Section 4-28 of the City Charter. MCO § 303-11-2(e) was approved by the Common Council as part of an amendment to the Ethics Code that occurred in 2020. Prior to that amendment, the procedure was to issue municipal citations to these individuals.

It has now been more than 45 days since the following Officials, who are members of City of Milwaukee boards, committees, or commissions, have failed to file their Statements of Economic Interests for the year 2020:

Charter School Review Committee	Joyce Mallory
Milwaukee Arts Board	Vedale Hill
Public Transportation, Utilities, and Waterways Review Board	Harpreet Singh
Standards and Appeals Commission	Larry Adams
Standards and Appeals Commission	Willie Ellis

Accordingly, pursuant to MCO § 303-11-2(e), please accept this correspondence as a Complaint from the Ethics Board, recommending that the Common Council remove the above individuals from their respective boards, committees, and commissions.

Please note that if the Council does not believe removal is appropriate, the Council also has the ability to direct the City Attorney to file citations against the above individuals in Municipal Court, with a required forfeiture amount of not less than \$250 or greater than \$1,000. This forfeiture would be in addition to any previously accrued late fees.

Procedures for the Common Council to follow in determining whether to remove a member of a City of Milwaukee board, committee, or commission for failure to file a statement of economic interests are set out in MCO § 303-29, a copy of which has been attached to this correspondence.

If there are any questions regarding the above, please contact Assistant City Attorney Peter Block at pblock@milwaukee.gov or Chair Pat Hintz at 414-277-5833.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia A. Hintz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Patricia Hintz, Chair