

MICHAEL J. MURPHY

ALDERMAN, 10TH DISTRICT

City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Phone (414) 286-2221
Fax (414) 286-3456

e-mail: mmurph@milwaukee.gov
website: www.milwaukee.gov/district10



CHAIR:
Employees' Retirement System Investment Committee
Finance & Personnel Committee
Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board
Milwaukee Arts Board

MEMBER:
Steering & Rules Committee
Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development

October 15, 2010

To the Honorable, Members of the Common Council

Dear Council Members:

In order to avoid having budget amendments drafted and then ruled out of order, the City Clerk's Office has met with the City Attorney's Office, the City Comptroller, and the Budget and Management Division to review the laws and opinions governing such amendments. Here are some important points to remember:

- Amendments are limited to changes or additions to the purposes and amounts of items in the budget.
- The Council cannot amend the amounts of revenue estimated by the Comptroller. New fees cannot be created by budget amendment.
- Block grant funding cannot be allocated by budget amendment
- The assignment of fire and police personnel cannot be regulated by budget amendment.
- Budget footnotes have no legal effect. They may be attached to an amendment to indicate legislative intent, but must be enacted through separate legislation.

The staff of the Legislative Reference Bureau and the Budget and Management Division will be alert to these issues and will advise you if you have requested an amendment that contravenes any of these principles. The City Attorney's Office will be readily available during the budget amendment cycle to provide advice regarding any particular amendment. It is our goal to address any problems before amendments are actually submitted to the Finance and Personnel Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Murphy".

Michael J. Murphy
Chair, Finance & Personnel Committee