

MARVIN E. PRATT
Alderman, 1st District




COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Office: (414) 286-2221

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alderman Fredrick Gordon
Chair, Finance & Personnel
Alderman Michael D'Amato
Third District
Alderman Michael J. Murphy
Vice Chair, Finance & Personnel
Alderman Willie Hines
Seventeenth District
Alderman Paul Henningsen
Fourth District

FROM: Alderman Marvin Pratt 
Common Council President

DATE: March 18, 2002

RE: **Hiring Freeze**

We are all aware of the tough fiscal times we are facing in a number of areas: the proposed cutback of State Shared Revenue, increased health care cost, and impending wage settlement agreements, leaving us with little room for any creativity.

Mayor Norquist and I have discussed in a couple of meetings a number of different ways to deal with the budgetary problems we face. I believe one that should be implemented within the month, is a strict freeze on the hiring of new employees.

It seems to me it would not be a wise move to hire people from January to April, and then have to lay them off at the beginning of next year.

It may come to pass that no matter what action we take, in order to protect the City of Milwaukee taxpayers from increase taxes, we may have to lay off personnel. However, until we know that for sure I believe a proactive approach is needed which would be a hiring freeze.

Finance and Personnel Members
March 18, 2002
Page 2

We should impose a strict hiring freeze on April 8, 2002, which is the next date for new employee orientation, and is a date after the new police and fire recruits have already started.

I am asking for your support in doing this with a review of this policy in four to six months. In order to expedite this request, I am suggesting that File 011627, a communication relative to a policy on the filling of vacant City positions be placed on your March 20, 2002 agenda.

MEP:kr