

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hon. City Representatives and Recipients of this E-Mail Message

FROM: Roy B. Evans, Esq. Chairman City of Milwaukee Board of Review

DATE: October 31, 2019

REGARDING: Proposed City Budget Amendment

To Whom it May Concern,

As Chairman of the City of Milwaukee Board of Review, tasked with the responsibility of reviewing and assessing City of Milwaukee citizen tax appeals, I am in shock and dismayed at the proposed budget amendment put forth eliminating compensation for City of Milwaukee Board and Commission members. I make no hesitation in stating that this proposed amendment, in my opinion, will create immediate untold negative reactions to its implementation and, as well, will cause catastrophic consequences and harm to the process and orderly operation of City government. I can only speak from my years of experience and public service to the City of Milwaukee in various capacities and currently as second term Chairman of the Board of Review that this proposal, if implemented, will cause an exodus of countless years of invaluable historic knowledge, experience and dedication to City services and will leave the City of Milwaukee vulnerable to disruption in its ability to perform the technically complex, legally required state statutory functions required of the City of Milwaukee as the only City of the First Class in the State of Wisconsin.

To eliminate compensation for providing competent dedicated public services to the City would be a professional insult to the current board members on which I serve who are already currently under compensated civil servants who serve with pride and integrity. To serve without compensation is asking too much.

I have no clue as to how or why this amendment was proposed as a budget item but, I want to make it perfectly clear, I would anticipate that a reasonable exodus of institutional knowledge will be lost forever upon its approval leaving the City out of legal compliance and in jeopardy of irreparable harm. In my view the Board of Review function is an essential component in the property tax assessment process and the stability of the Cities budget.

Memop2

I am sending this e-mail because this information was recently brought to my attention as a done deal. I do not know why it has been proposed, as I have stated, or who had input in proposing it, however, with all due respect, this proposal does not appear to have been well thought out or vetted for its potential impact upon being adopted. In my opinion a conversation with the City Attorney's office and the City Assessor needed to occur with respects to the legal implications and the political ramifications of this proposed amendment

Therefore, as the Chairman of the City of Milwaukee Board of Review, I want to go on record in opposition to this budget amendment proposal and suggest that it be re-evaluated in the context of its legal consequences and potential harm. I strongly recommend rejection of this amendment and oppose its proposed implementation.

I ask that this memo of concern and opinion be read into the official Council record.

Respectfully,

Roy B. Evans, Esq. Chairman
City of Milwaukee Board of Review