


**City
of
Milwaukee**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Members, Common Council
FROM: Ronald D. Leonhardt, City Clerk 
DATE: January 3, 2007
RE: MPS Tax Levy Error

Ald. Michael Murphy has requested that we provide a detailed accounting of the events that led to the miscalculation of the Milwaukee Public Schools tax levy for 2007. We have conducted a thorough review of our procedures and documentation and will present that to the Finance and Personnel Committee, as requested.

Briefly, we have looked at the last 10 years of documents pertaining to initial and revised tax levy notices from MPS to the city and in all cases MPS provided notice directly to both the City Clerk and the Comptroller. This year the revised notice was only provided to the City Clerk. Our staff followed standard procedures of our office and placed the document in question in the communication file containing the notices from MPS relative to their 2007 tax levy.

There is no evidence that any member of our staff acted negligently or inappropriately in the handling of these documents. Our customary practices were followed.

Ald. Murphy has requested that we identify steps that can be taken to ensure that this situation does not occur in the future. We have prepared recommendations that include both legislative and procedural changes. We are prepared to work with all parties involved to ensure that all budget documentation is appropriately transmitted to the city and is handled in a manner that all city agencies requiring this information receive it.

Deputy City Clerk Jim Owczarski and I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Cc: Mayor Tom Barrett
Comptroller Wally Morics
City Attorney Grant Langley
City Treasurer Wayne Whittow
Commissioner of Assessments Mary Reavey

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Council/mpslevy2.doc