

PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE on 2021-01-28 1:30 PM - AMENDED 1/26/21

Meeting time has been changed to 1:30PM

This is a virtual meeting. Those wishing to view the proceedings are able to do so via the City Channel - Channel 25 on Spectrum Cable -

Meeting Time: 01-28-21 13:30

eComments Report

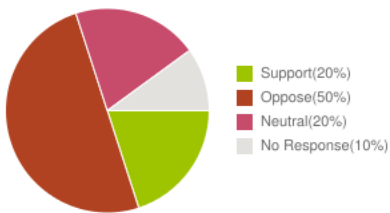
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
PUBLIC SAFETY AND HEALTH COMMITTEE on 2021-01-28 1:30 PM - AMENDED 1/26/21 Meeting time has been changed to 1:30PM	01-28-21 13:30	19	10	2	5	2

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Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



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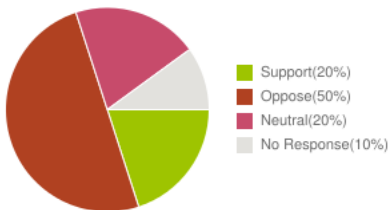
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01-28-21 13:30

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
1. 201291 Appointment of Kirsten Johnson as Commissioner of Health by the Mayor.	10	2	5	2

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

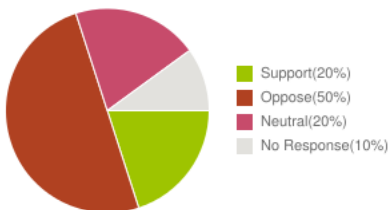
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for 1. 201291 Appointment of Kirsten Johnson as Commissioner of Health by the Mayor.

Overall Sentiment



Bailey Murph

Location:

Submitted At: 4:01pm 01-27-21

Dear Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and Common Council Members, as a District 1 resident of Milwaukee, I am writing to you in support of Kirsten Johnson's appointment as Milwaukee's next Health Commissioner. I have had the pleasure of knowing and working with Kirsten and I am completely confident in her ability to lead the City of Milwaukee Health Department.

Kirsten is a strong leader who leads with integrity, honesty, and compassion. Deeply committed to social justice and health equity, she brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience that will serve her well in her role. She also brings with her a large statewide and national network of colleagues, peers, and professionals in public health. Lastly, Kirsten believes in and practices transparency in her leadership, which is what we need right now.

We need a social justice champion who is willing to stand up for what's right and necessary in order to make Milwaukee the healthiest city in the State. Without hesitation, I strongly implore you to support the appointment of Kirsten Johnson as the new Milwaukee Health Commissioner. Thank you.

Shaylen Braggs

Location:

Submitted At: 2:33pm 01-27-21

What local policies has this candidate developed and implemented that demonstrates her ability to understand, advocate for, and improve the health in underserved and underrepresented neighborhoods? Finally, what work locally toward racial equity and diversity and inclusion has she been involved in? A candidate that understands the community in these unprecedented times is necessary specifically for health inequities that typically plague black and brown communities. An impressive resume is fine, but it was my understanding the other candidate for this position had substantial community experience. With so much skepticism in the community around the COVID vaccine and its efficiency, it is important to have a commissioner that has experience communicating with those that need it most during this time. Furthermore, there is nothing that indicates the current candidate has any involvement in any local community networks or organizations. If there is anything that 2020 taught this country is that representation matters especially in a situation. I OPPOSE!

Denijah Miller

Location:

Submitted At: 1:50pm 01-27-21

While COVID-19 has been an unprecedented challenge among us all, it is important that we do not forget about lead safety. What specific strategic plans does this candidate have to address the ongoing lead crisis in the city? What is her experience in lead-safe programs?

Shellese Shemwell

Location:

Submitted At: 11:35am 01-27-21

COVID-19 continues to disproportionately impact people of color and certain communities. When comparing COVID response in counties she has led (Ozaukee and Washington), there are ZERO COVID orders or enforcement of anything including the statewide mask mandate. Positivity rates are 17.9% in Ozaukee County and 21.3% in Washington County! Milwaukee is at 7.7%! Is she going to make us backslide? Did she give into political pressure? If so, how will she advocate for the Milwaukee community in the face of picking pressure? If not political pressure, what is her excuse for failing to put measures in place to protect the communities she served?

Deborah Fadoju

Location:

Submitted At: 11:22am 01-27-21

Dear Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and Common Council members, I am writing to oppose the appointment of Kirsten Johnson as Commissioner of Health. Transparency continues to be a major issue impacting city departments and leadership. I was hoping the city was turning a new page when we saw how the Chief of Police process was executed. I particularly enjoyed being able to watch the paneled interviews on social media and provide input as a citizen of the city. What was the initial hiring process for selecting a Commissioner of Health? Did the city deviate from this process at all? Why did the city not provide an opportunity for community input until now? Were the staff or Deputy Commissioners of the health department involved at all in this process? Given the number of Commissioners (permanent or interim) in the last 4-5 years, in addition to the continuous health department staff turnover, it may have been a great idea for the community/staff to offer their opinions on who they believe is best suited to lead the department.

Geoffrey Swain

Location:

Submitted At: 8:24pm 01-26-21

Dear Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and Common Council members: I served as Associate Medical Director / Medical Director for the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) for 26 years, from December 1993 through December 2019, working under six different Health Commissioners. As such, I am well aware of the issues and challenges

facing MHD's next Health Commissioner, and I am writing in support of the appointment of Kirsten Johnson to be the next person to fill that role. I have worked with Ms. Johnson for 15 years, first in her role at MCW's Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute, subsequently in her role as Director of the Ozaukee-Washington County Health Department, and throughout that time through our involvement with the Wisconsin Public Health Association. Ms. Johnson has the skills, knowledge, and experience to meet the internal and external issues and challenges of MHD, and to successfully advance the health of the Milwaukee public broadly. She will be an excellent leader for MHD, and the City will be very fortunate to have her. Her commitment to public health and health equity is deep, and she has my strongest recommendation. Thank you. - Geoffrey R. Swain, MD, MPH.

Albert Holmes

Location:

Submitted At: 6:56pm 01-26-21

Historically, The Health Commissioner has been another political puppet in our government, rather than a person focused on studying and addressing the culture, life styles of the residence of this city and its surrounding communities. We need someone with experience in working in Urban communities. Our issues of Lead in our water, Covid-19 Virus vaccinations, increase in senior population, and minority population, in addition to people returning from incarceration need leadership to address services to reduce health disparities. We need leadership in developing partnerships with the public education system, the business community and the higher education venues to secure resources and employment opportunities in health occupations. Who are all of the candidates that applied and made it as a finalist to interview?

Melissa Ugland

Location:

Submitted At: 9:24am 01-25-21

There is a current study to examine the feasibility of combining Milwaukee County's 11 health departments into one, county-level health department. All of the health departments in the county are underfunded at this time, and there are growing concerns that any merger would lead to a further reduction in services and/or that each area's unique needs would have an even harder time being met. The City of Milwaukee, in particular, would risk losing the ability to center concerns of Black and Brown residents who make up a majority of the city's population. A merger would also be unlikely to address the chronic underfunding issues facing our public health infrastructure. With some city residents fearing that a merger would lead to the "gentrification of public health", how can such a merger be examined through an economic and racial justice lens?

Raisa Koltun

Location:

Submitted At: 11:31am 01-24-21

Dear Chairwoman Dimitrijevic and Common Council members, I am writing in support of the appointment of Kirsten Johnson for the next Commissioner of Health. I know Kirsten to be the utmost public health professional, as well as one of the most innovative public health leaders in Wisconsin. I believe she is exactly what the Health Department needs at this moment. Not only will she usher the Health Department and the City through this pandemic, she will also set the department on a trajectory to become a national leader. Thank you for your consideration. Raisa Koltun

The GrizMaster Support public health

Location:

Submitted At: 11:51am 01-22-21

The health department leadership has been working hard with many transformation changes despite the pandemic. Any changes to the leadership at the deputy commissioners level would destabilize current and future change efforts through 2022. Continued support is contingent on maintaining department stability through the pandemic and with its current deputy commissioners.