

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

To: Members of the Common Council
CC: Mayor Tom Barrett
From: Annie Wacker, Vice President
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We are writing on behalf of the many public workers employed by the City of Milwaukee, in order to recognize and appreciate those who do the quite important things that make our city thrive and make it a place where people want to live, work, and raise a family. We're talking about our library services. We're talking about forestry. We're talking about building inspection, food inspection, safe drinking water, all of these things. We're well aware of the quality services that the City receives. Unfortunately, as you're faced with the budget that comes before you, you often have to make some very difficult choices, but the general services employees of the City of Milwaukee have been taking a hit for a long time. They can no longer afford to take those hits. If the Budget makes any kind of cuts, then we're going to start talking about layoffs. And you're talking about family sustaining jobs that will no longer be provided by the City of Milwaukee. We have an opportunity to make sure the City of Milwaukee continues to grow and thrive, but if we diminish and demean services, people will no longer wish to be here. It's about having quality services and quality of life. It's about having a good educational system, as well as Police and Fire. It's about knowing your streets are going to be plowed. That your garbage is going to be picked up. That your library is going to be open. That your water is going to be safe. It's about making sure that those death certificates and birth certificates are available. That your water-main breaks are going to be taken care of. I don't know too many people who want to be out in subzero weather repairing water-main breaks in freezing water. But that's the type of service that our employees do. Those are all essential services provided by general city employees and they deserve the respect and they deserve the consideration of this body to continue to make sure they can do their job, do it well, and provide for the people of the City of Milwaukee.

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