

Reply to Common Council File No. 011069  
From DOA-Budget and Management Division

December 12, 2001

Ref: 01032(02)

Common Council File 011069 contains a resolution for issuance and sale of general obligation bonds in the amount of \$9,000,000 for public buildings for housing machinery and equipment.

This file specifically authorizes general obligation borrowing for current operation costs associated with Milwaukee Public Schools financing.

These funds will be utilized for the following Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) projects not contemplated at the time the 2001 budget was adopted:

- MPS Special Education Student Tracking System (\$5,000,000) and
- MPS Financial System (\$4,000,000).

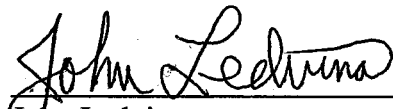
The Special Education Student Tracking System has previously unavailable capabilities to track, store, and make available information to more properly serve special needs students. Histories will be maintained in more detail. Other information crucial to serving special needs students will also be available.

The current MPS Financial System is a combination of computer "legacy" systems that are now obsolete and not supported by MPS employees or vendors. The systems were developed years ago by MPS computer programmers using PL1. These programmers have since retired or moved to other employment. PL1 is an obsolete computer language that is very difficult to obtain programming talent to support.

Further, the General Ledger system is a commercial off the shelf (COTS) product that is now obsolete. It is no longer supported by its vendor, Computer Associates, due to its age and the advancement of technology.

The Milwaukee School Board unanimously approved these capital projects at their October 25, 2001 meeting. Copies of the relevant minutes are available in the Budget Office, if needed.

**RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE**

  
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John Ledvina  
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