



Fire and Police Commission

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June 22, 2023

Jim Owczarski
City Clerk
VIA EMAIL

Re: 2023 Wisconsin Act 12

Dear Mr. Owczarski:

I write regarding the newly enacted 2023 Wisconsin Act 12. Given the importance of this legislation for the City of Milwaukee, I believe the members of the Common Council would benefit from the following information relating to the act's requirements for recruiting and hiring new police officers and firefighters.¹ I therefore request that you forward this letter to all the members of the Common Council.

If the sales tax levy is approved by the Common Council, the act would require the City of Milwaukee to increase the number of sworn law enforcement officers to a total of 1,725, and increase the average daily staffing level of the Fire Department to 218 members. This amounts to approximately 100 new police officers and 90 new firefighters. While these are significant total increases, the act provides they can be accomplished over a 10-year period. Accordingly, the City of Milwaukee would need to add roughly 10 new police officers and 9 new firefighters to its ranks every year.

I believe the Fire and Police Commission (FPC) can meet this requirement for both the Police Department and the Fire Department. Moreover, hiring additional police officers and firefighters would allow the FPC to continue its important work of diversifying the Police and Fire Departments. Over the past few years, the FPC has

¹ In this letter, I use the terms "police officers" and "firefighters" broadly to refer to all sworn members of the Police Department and all Fire Department personnel who are engaged in the duties of firefighting, firefighting training, and directly related skills, regardless of rank.

been very intentional about developing diverse and inclusive public safety departments. Our most recent police officer recruitments have produced highly diverse eligible lists, as well as highly diverse recruit classes, which mirror the racial and ethnic diversity of our City. On June 19, 2023, we opened a new firefighter recruitment, and we are hopeful it too will yield similar positive results.

I hope the members of the Common Council find this information helpful. If you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Leon W. Todd
Executive Director

cc: Mayor Cavalier Johnson