

Monday June 27, 2023

Statement from Michael Brady before the City of Milwaukee Steering and Rules Committee regarding Local Funding Bill

As a former City employee from 1989-2016 who worked for three mayors – Mayor John Norquist, Mayor Marvin Pratt, and Mayor Tom Barrett – I know firsthand how each worked to get the state legislature to provide fair or additional shared revenue and/or to allow the city to use other sources of revenue. I know none were able to get the legislature to act. As director of employee benefits, I know the pressure to work with employees and unions to control health care and benefit costs and understand there has been success in those areas because of the city leadership and the efforts of employees.

I understand the current local funding bill is not ideal. I applaud this body for taking action to remove the meddling in local affairs by the State legislature. At the same time the City's budget crisis is real and if this is a once in a generation offer from the State Legislature and the alternative is some type of fiscal crisis, I would strongly urge the Council to approve the local funding bill.

I thank you for taking public comment on this bill and understand that none of you take this issue lightly. Over my 75 years in the city, I have lived in the 4<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> and now the 14<sup>th</sup> Districts. Thank you for your listening.

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