

MILWAUKEE RETIREE ASSOCIATION

RETIREE CHAPTER 48 AFSCME

P.O. Box 342055

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53234-2055

414-297-9215 (please leave message)

Email: mrac48@yahoo.com

OFFICERS

President: Jean Burnside
Vice-President: Thomas Hayes
Treasurer: Michael Popowycz
Secretary: Walter Powers

DIRECTORS

Janet Bischoff Harry Stein
Roger Oldenburg Frank Zauner
Patrick Patzer Elizabeth Zelazek
Agnes Stearns

June 17, 2014

The Honorable Tom Barrett, Mayor
City of Milwaukee
Room 201, City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Alderman Michael Murphy, President, Common Council
City of Milwaukee
Room 205, City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Gentlemen:

Our Association has been made aware of proposed changes for the City's 2015 health insurance benefits that will affect active and retired participants. The changes in benefits that the City implemented for 2012 were supposed to help control rising health care costs and they did pass more costs on to employees and retirees. It was a difficult time for participants who had to deal with new co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles.

For 2015, the City is again proposing to pass more costs on to participants and create a more confusing health plan by introducing a tiered provider organization, increased deductibles and co-insurance payments, and a prescription plan that has a flat 20% payment for most drugs.

Some City representatives claim that these changes will not have much effect on Medicare-eligible retirees because the City coordinates its benefits with Medicare. However, there are many retirees younger than 65 who will have to pay the full higher costs. There is also a group of retirees who are older than 65 but are not eligible for Medicare. Two adults without Medicare currently pay \$1,417 to \$1,535 per month, or \$17,000 to \$18,000 annually plus all their deductibles, co-pays, co-insurance and prescription costs.

We ask for your help to keep the City's health plans simple, reasonably priced and within retiree budgets for 2015.

Respectfully,


Ms. Jean Burnside, President

cc: Michael Brady, Employee Benefits Director
Alderman Nik Kovac, Chairman, Finance & Personnel Committee
Ald. Dudzik; Hamilton; Coggs; Witkowski; Davis, Sr.; Baumann; Bohl; Wade; Donovan; Puente; Perez; Zielinski; and Stamper, II