CITY OF MILWAUKEE
MUNICIPAL COURT

Derek C. Mosley, Presiding Judge
Branch 2

Valarie A. Hill, Judge
Branch 1

Phillip M. Chavez, Judge
Branch 3

Sheldyn M. Himle
Chief Court Administrator

Jane E.T. Islo
Assistant Court Administrator

June 8, 2017

Alderman Michael Murphy, Chair
Judiciary & Legislation Committee
City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 52302

Dear Alderman Murphy:

I am unable to attend the Judiciary & Legislation Committee meeting on Monday, June 12, and unable to send anyone in my place. Therefore, I am submitting this communication related to file number 170333, which is currently number 17 on the agenda: Communication from departments relating to the status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Outstanding Debt Task Force.

Recommendations to the Outstanding Debt Work Group (ODWG) from the Municipal Court were:

1. Contract with Harris & Harris expires at the end of June 2017: sync with the collection contract of the Department of Public Works (DPW) – their collections contract with Duncan Solutions expires as of December 31, 2018.
2. Place collection of unpaid, overdue Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) cases with a judgment of $10,000 or more with the Department of Revenue's State Debt Collection agency (SDC).
3. Place collection of unpaid, overdue Traffic cases that are 12 months delinquent with SDC.

Work to implement these recommendations is proceeding. Here is what has been accomplished thus far:

1. The City Attorney's office, at the direction of Municipal Court, amended the collections contract with Harris & Harris in two ways:
   a. to expire as of Dec. 31, 2018, and
   b. to allow the Court to refer the types of debt described in the recommendation(numbers 1 and 2 above) to SDC.
   Both of these amendments have been made.

951 North James Lovell Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1449. Phone (414) 286-3800, FAX (414) 286-3615.
www.municourt.milwaukee.gov

MILWAUKEE

For items 2 and 3:
- the City Attorney's office is working to set a meeting with representatives from the Court, DPW and SDC to discuss contractual details and technological interface requirements of placing certain Court judgments with the State;
- before implementation, Municipal Court IT personnel will need to create and test new programming which will provide functionality for the Case Automated Tracking System (CATS) to place judgments with two different collections groups - currently, it is configured to send all debt to one collection agency; and,
- SDC has stated that a Social Security Number (SSN), Driver's License Number (DLN) or Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN) will be needed. DNS does not have any of this information for building and zoning cases - Municipal Court will discuss other possible options SDC may have for verification of these cases.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this to the committee. I am happy to answer any questions you or other members of the Council may have.

Sincerely,

Sheldyn M. Himle
Chief Court Administrator

/smh

cc: Chris Lee, Staff Assistant to the Committee
        Andrea Fowler, Assistant City Attorney

951 North James Lovell Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233-1449. Phone (414) 286-3800, FAX (414) 286-3615.
www.municourt.milwaukee.gov

MILWAUKEE