

January 3, 2021

To: Milwaukee Common Council

From: Paul Mozina

Re: Vote NO on CC File 201191 – Reappointment of Ann Wilson to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners by the Mayor.

Commissioner Wilson has not earned another 5-year term on the Board of the FPC; it's time for a change. Her main interest is working with young people rather than overseeing the operations, policies and procedures of the MPD and MFD. When [asked by Alderman Spiker](#) (1:23:15) what *uniquely qualifies* her to serve on the Commission, Ms. Wilson answered that she cares about people and asks the tough question: "What are **WE** gonna do?"

After 7 ½ years on the FPC Board, she thinks that the biggest problem with the Commission is, ["by law", they can't talk to each other](#) (1:15:00). [Open Meetings Rules](#) **do not** categorically prevent Commissioners from writing down their thoughts and sharing them. Commissioner Wilson never learned how to work effectively within the Commission and has never served as the Chair of any Committee.

Commissioner Wilson has failed to hold herself, the Board, and its Executive Director, to the standards of governance that we have a right to demand of the most powerful civilian oversight board in the country. The demotion of former MPD Chief Alfonso Morales is the Board's most recent and glaring fiasco. After 7 ½ years on the Board, sitting as a judge at eight appeals trials, reviewing literally hundreds of suspensions, demotions and discharges, Commissioner Wilson thought it was **OK** to demote the Chief [without giving him due process, or issuing any final written findings or order](#).

If Commissioner Wilson had read and understood [Wis. Stat. 62.50](#), which governs the FPC, and [the FPC's own rules](#), she would not have abandoned her own judgement, ignored common sense, and blamed the Board's indefensible actions in the Morales debacle on the City Attorney's advice.

Commissioner Wilson has not demonstrated the independence to stand up and fight for us, whether that is demanding police accountability, getting an important item on an agenda or holding her fellow Board members to ethical standards commensurate with their weighty responsibilities. The involvement of Commissioner DeVougas in the interview of an alleged suspect in a sexual assault cried out for an ethics investigation. But when Commissioner DeVougas announced at the [FPC meeting on February 6, 2020](#) (38:25): "in the spirit of transparency... let's just get it all done and out in the open", that he had requested a **confidential advisory opinion** from the Ethics Board, Commissioner Wilson had no problem with that, **despite** former Commissioner Robakowski quickly pointing out that **the Board** should be requesting the opinion so that it could review the results.

Finally, when [Alderman Spiker asked Commissioner Wilson](#) (1:21:06) if she had any second thoughts about seeking reappointment after her first term expired in 2018, she replied: "I had second thoughts at one time, because **things were not as exciting**, and the **opportunities were**

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not as great as they are now.” The Common Council has a ***great*** opportunity – **now** – to replace Commissioner Wilson with someone who understands how to work within the Commission to get things done; someone who will master the rules and procedures of the FPC; and finally, someone with the courage, dedication and independence to faithfully represent this community on the most powerful governing body of its kind in the nation – [Milwaukee’s Fire and Police Commission](#).