



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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January 29, 2010

To the Honorable, the Common Council  
of the City of Milwaukee

Honorable Members of the Common Council:

I have signed File 091211. Rest assured that my Administration supports the Fire Department's current plan of operation that limits brownouts to two per day.

I do, however, want to set the record straight regarding how the Budget, as amended by Common Council Amendment 30 A, drives the potential for brownouts.

File 091211 states that the Common Council "understood" that the Fire Department would limit brownouts to no more than 2 per day during 2010. This understanding is consistent with my Proposed Executive Budget, which indicated that the proposed funding level for the Department would result in "one to two companies a day" being removed from service. This projected impact is consistent with the presentation that the Milwaukee Fire Department made to the Finance & Personnel Committee during its review of the Proposed Budget.

During its deliberations, the Common Council adopted Amendment 30 A, offered by Alderman Donovan, which included a reduction to special duty pay of \$ - 849,816 to the Department's proposed Budget. By reducing special pay, it was apparent to Council members that this amendment would increase 2010 brownouts by one company a day. Consequently, it simply does not follow that the Council could have reached an understanding that brownouts would be limited to no more than two per day, given its action on this amendment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Barrett  
Mayor