

April 5, 2021

Alderman Michael Murphy
Chairperson, Finance & Personnel Committee
Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Chairperson Murphy,

The staff of Port Milwaukee requests excusal from attending the forthcoming Finance & Personnel (F&P) Committee meeting currently scheduled for Thursday, April 8, 2021. All Port senior staff will be participating in a meeting of the Board of Harbor Commissioners (BHC), the governing body appointed by the Mayor and approved by the Council to oversee the work of the Port. The April 8, 2021 BHC meeting is scheduled concurrent to F&P in accordance with the regular BHC meeting schedule, which was previously approved by the BHC and announced in December 2020.

In an abundance of proactivity, the Port hereby submits its comments related to forthcoming F&P files which may include Port-related discussion undertaken by the Common Council.

- **File 201571** – *Substitute resolution... to create a transparent and inclusive plan for the allocation of funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*
 - **Port comment:** The BHC and Port Milwaukee staff are well prepared to maintain regular communication with the Common Council via its ongoing coordination with the Office of Mayor Tom Barrett regarding the *American Rescue Plan* allocation. Potentially applicable Port projects include that (a) are “shovel ready” and can begin work immediately, (b) address the severest cases of infrastructure and capital asset degradation at the Port, (c) target activities that will spurn new or heightened economic utilization of the Port and the City of Milwaukee, and (d) are most strategically tied to the Port’s updated mission and vision, which was recently amended by the BHC in accordance with the Port’s *2020 Equity and Inclusion Plan*.
- **File 201605** – *Communication from the Department of Employee Relations relating to classification studies scheduled for City Service Commission action*
 - **Port comment:** If approved by the City Service Commission on April 6, 2021, the BHC and Port Milwaukee supports this DER-completed market study specific to the Port’s Engineering Division, which includes several Port positions: (a) Management Civil Engineer – Senior (“Harbor Engineer”), (b) Civil Engineer III (“Port Field Engineer”), and (c) Civil Engineer II. The proposed changes better improves the likelihood of recruiting and retaining qualified professional engineers at the Port and in the City when competing against similar positions in the private sector.

These recommendations are in line with similar City-wide action recently approved by the Council in File # 201495.

If approved by the Council, the overall impact to the Port’s 2021 Budget is a cumulative cost increase of \$6,437, which the Port expects to accommodate within its existing allocation.



The Port also supports a subsequent market study of its fourth engineering position by DER, an Engineering Technician IV, which we believe will be presented to the CSC and the Common Council in the future as commensurate with previous Council approval in File # 201401.

- **File 201119** – *Substitute resolution authorizing attendance at conventions in 2021 by employees of city departments...*
 - **Port comment:** The Port's ask for 2021 is commensurate with previously approved requests for fiscal years 2020 and 2019. Both Port requests are currently on-schedule as "in-person" events and have not yet announced a pivot to virtual hosting related to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **File 201612** – *Communication from the City Comptroller relating to the Report of Audit Finding Follow-Up 2021*
 - **Port comment:** The results of the Port Milwaukee Capital Asset audit were originally presented to the Common Council in 2020 under File # 200767 as finalized on October 13, 2020. The Port's most recent update to the Comptroller was provided on November 25, 2020. Under end of year reporting requirements, the Port was asked to provide the Comptroller with a status update mere weeks after the audit was finalized. Accordingly, all audit recommendations were submitted as "in process" by the Port.

As of April 2021, Port Milwaukee has made significant progress in addressing the Audit findings. The keystone of the Port's approach is delivery of a Capital Asset Renewal Plan (CARP) which will create a new preventative maintenance schedule and infrastructure asset inventory for the Port. The CARP will be formally presented to the Office of Mayor Tom Barrett and the Common Council before the end of 2021.

I believe that the CARP is one of the most important strategic endeavors that the Port will undertake for a generation, providing City decision-makers with a roadmap for revitalizing the Port as a creator of jobs and economic opportunity in Milwaukee. I welcome the opportunity to brief you or any member of the Council with our progress at any time.

This Thursday, Port staff will be briefing the BHC with the latest updates concerning the sinking of the *Harbor Seagull* tugboat. Port staff are optimistic that the *Harbor Seagull* will sail again in Milwaukee Harbor, ideally by summer 2021. The Port will keep the Council abreast of this ongoing project as well.

Please let us know if I or other Port staff can address any follow-up questions from you or members of the Committee. Best wishes for a successful F&P meeting, and thank you again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Tindall-Schlicht", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Adam Tindall-Schlicht
Director
Port Milwaukee

cc: Jackie Q. Carter; Finance & Administration Officer, Port Milwaukee
Milele A. Coggs; Alderwoman, City of Milwaukee
Makda Fessahaye; Director of Employee Relations, City of Milwaukee
Tim Hoelter; President, Board of Harbor Commissioners
Nik Kovac; Alderman, City of Milwaukee
Chris Lee; Staff Assistant, City Clerk's Office
Scott Spiker; Alderman, City of Milwaukee
Jodie Tabak; Chief of Staff, Office of Mayor Tom Barrett
Dennis Yaccarino, Budget & Management Director, City of Milwaukee
JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderwoman, City of Milwaukee