

MILWAUKEE AREA LABOR COUNCIL

American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations

SERVING MILWAUKEE, OZAUKEE AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

October 14, 2021

TO: Members of Finance and Personnel Committee
FROM: Milwaukee Area Labor Council

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Dear Chairman Murphy and Members of the Committee,

As you begin the important process to sort through the myriad of ideas for investment of American Rescue Plan Act dollars in Milwaukee, we at the Milwaukee Area Labor Council are writing to communicate our strong support for Proposal #46 to provide retroactive hazard pay for front-facing City workers who were left out of CARES Act Funding.

The proposal covers people who worked from pay period 10 through pay period 26 of 2020. In total, this would apply to 1,456 City of Milwaukee workers, providing \$3.13 per hour for hours worked in this timeframe. We offer our appreciation to Alderman Spiker for authoring the proposal and to Alderwoman Cogg and President Johnson for requesting a study on the costs from D.E.R. The American Rescue Plan Act was specifically designed to correct some of the rules flaws that precluded certain public workers from being included in hazard pay through CARES Act funding, thereby signaling it is a legitimate use of the funding to treat equally all City workers who kept to their posts during the pandemic. We hope the matter is passed by this committee and that the entire Council will vote in favor of it.

Additionally, the Council would like to offer support for the following items that will provide training pathways and career opportunities for City residents.

Funding to launch a Net Zero Modular Homes factory at Century City, which would create manufacturing employment for city residents while creating affordable and energy efficient housing units to place on city in-fill lots, which would help restore tax base.

Funding for the Green and Healthy Homes (GHHI) Proposal. This wholistic approach coordinates low-income energy efficiency retrofits with lead abatement projects. Weatherization not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions it also lowers people's heating bills and helps address uneven energy burden for Milwaukee residents.

Funding for the Urban Tree Canopy and landscaping programs to address urban heat island effect and flooding issues that are some of the extreme weather results of climate change.

Funding for \$2.7m clean energy jobs workforce development. This plan creates a critical link to the skills training needed to make a shift in Milwaukee's economic and environmental health. The investment of federal funds to help Milwaukee residents into new career pathways in green jobs will be a sound investment. We know the Infrastructure Bill will create expansions in renewable energy and other fields that address climate change, so getting outreach and workforce programming going now will allow Milwaukee to reap the most benefit from these investments.

The City County Task Force on Climate Change and Economic Equity has been working on outreach events to engage the imaginations of the young people in our community to the types of jobs that can offer both a viable life-long career and a means to make a difference in their community and the world by fighting climate change. We see very really opportunity to connect new people into exciting jobs of the future. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pam Fendt

Pam Fendt, President

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