

Bablitch, Kelly

From: Lipscomb, Theodore
Sent: Friday, August 04, 2017 9:46 PM
To: Koltun, Raisa
Cc: DL CBRD CtyBrd Supervisors; Christenson, George; Bablitch, Kelly; Abele, Chris; Whaley-Smith, Teig
Subject: Re: Retirement Sustainability Taskforce

Thanks for sharing your decisions!

Just for clarity, once again, I didn't make any designations because this is the Executive's taskforce not an officially adopted County taskforce, by virtue of the way he formed it - by press release rather than a resolution. Supervisors Wasserman and Sartori volunteered, I simply communicated their interest, but I'm sure they appreciate the Executive's acceptance.

Out of curiosity, before graciously rejecting our offer of public meeting space, where did the Executive secure another space that provides equal or better access to the public including archived and live-streaming of his taskforce meetings?

Thanks again for sharing helpful answers and information with your partners on the County Board.

~Theo

Theodore A. Lipscomb, Sr.
Milwaukee County Board Chairman

County Supervisor, 1st District
Office Phone 414.278.4280

From: Koltun, Raisa
Sent: Friday, August 4, 2017 5:28 PM
To: Lipscomb, Theodore
Cc: DL CBRD CtyBrd Supervisors; Christenson, George; Bablitch, Kelly; Abele, Chris; Whaley-Smith, Teig
Subject: Fw: Retirement Sustainability Taskforce

Chairman Lipscomb,

Thank you for designating Supervisors Wasserman and Sartori to the Taskforce. We have notified them of their selection. I will leave it to you if your designation needs a formal resolution. Thank you also for the offer for using the County Board committee rooms. We have made other arrangements for the public Taskforce meetings.

Sincerely,

Raisa

Raisa Koltun
Chief of Staff to County Executive Chris Abele
901 N. 9th St., Room 306
Milwaukee, WI 53233
Phone: 414.278.4338



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From: "Lipscomb, Theodore" <Theodore.Lipscomb@milwaukeecountywi.gov>
Date: July 18, 2017 at 8:47:50 AM CDT
To: "Abele, Chris" <Chris.Abele@milwaukeecountywi.gov>
Cc: DL CBRD CtyBrd Supervisors <CBRD CtyBrd Supervisors@milwaukeecountywi.gov>, "Christenson, George" <George.Christenson@milwaukeecountywi.gov>, "Bablitch, Kelly" <Kelly.Bablitch@milwaukeecountywi.gov>
Subject: Retirement Sustainability Taskforce

County Executive Abele:

Your prior request is atypical in that it lacks a mechanism for the legislative body to make an affirmative designation for participation in your Taskforce through the regular process of the Board Chairman making that appointment or a resolution seeking confirmation of your appointee.

Therefore, I share with you that both Supervisor David L. Sartori and Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman have expressed interest in serving on your Taskforce. You may choose to ask them both to participate. Of course, recommendations from such an unelected Taskforce are no substitute for legislative action by elected County officials through an open democratic process.

I am sure you wish to avoid any comparison to a prior Administration that privately developed and advocated pension policies and changes behind closed doors. Therefore, I invite your Taskforce to use the County Board meeting rooms so the proceedings are open to the public and media, live-streamed, and archived for the record. Given your endorsement of my proposal to bring greater transparency to the Pension Board by moving its meetings to a location where its proceedings can be recorded, I anticipate you will accept this offer. To that end, my office already has reserved use of either 203R or 201B for each meeting date that you selected through July 2018. If the use of 203R always is preferred, and you communicate that request, we could work to make the necessary calendar adjustments.

It may be advisable that your Taskforce meetings be publicly noticed, given the recent open meetings ruling from the Wisconsin State Supreme Court. This case included a brief filed by Attorney Andy Phillips, your selection as facilitator in another compensation matter. Therefore, I also am copying the County Clerk who may wish to provide technical or staff support to the Taskforce to ensure public accessibility of agendas, minutes, and videos through CLIC (County Legislative Information Center).

<http://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2017/06/29/wisconsin-supreme-court-delivers-open-meetings-ruling/437382001/>



Wisconsin Supreme Court delivers open meetings ruling

www.jsonline.com

MADISON – The Wisconsin Supreme Court on Thursday ruled the state's open meetings law applied to an Appleton school committee that repeatedly met behind closed ...

Yesterday we were notified that your office has not returned three files from the June meeting of the County Board. One of these outstanding files is the fund transfer to allow the County to move forward on the proposal to secure analysis to transition ERS to the State WRS. I ask that you not further delay your approval of this Board adopted measure. Additionally, please share what County fiscal resources are being committed by the Administration to this Task Force and the Public Policy Forum.

File 17-448A

<https://milwaukeecounty.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3085920&GUID=BC87D241-0C48-4AE3-9A88-E0F92A93C5FB&Options=ID|Text|&Search=17-448>

Thank you,

~Theo

Theodore A. Lipscomb, Sr.
Milwaukee County Board Chairman

County Supervisor, 1st District
Office Phone 414.278.4280

From: Abele, Chris
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2017 4:02 PM
To: DL CBRD CtyBrd Supervisors
Cc: Whaley-Smith, Teig; Koltun, Raisa
Subject: Retirement Sustainability Taskforce

County Board of Supervisors,

Today I announced the creation of a Retirement Sustainability Taskforce (“Taskforce”). I am writing to invite the County Board to designate a County Board Supervisor to directly participate in this Taskforce.

The Taskforce will meet for two hours each month, for the next year, starting the last week of August. It will include approximately 20 individuals representing the public sector, private sector, employees, retirees, organized labor and other critical stakeholders. Meetings will be facilitated by the Public Policy Forum and the Taskforce will also include technical assistance from subject matter experts like The Pew Charitable Trusts’ public sector retirement systems project.

As you are aware, Milwaukee County has implemented several major modifications to make the County’s pension system more sustainable. These modifications include reducing the pension multiplier from its high of 2.5% to its current 1.6%, implementing employee contributions for the first time, and refinancing the outstanding debt. Because of the decades of underfunding, however, the unfunded liability is still over \$500 Million and continues to grow. Milwaukee County’s annual contribution to the pension system has grown from \$27.9 Million in 2006, to \$96 Million in 2016 and is expected to have another \$7 million increase in 2018. Currently, pension and retiree healthcare expenses are equal to 76% of the County’s Property Tax levy used for operations. In the next decade that number could rise to 81% - 97% of the operating property tax levy. Furthermore, a recent audit of operations indicates that the current system is riddled with errors, largely because of the over 2,000 variations within the current County system, compared to the State system which has only 4.

I appreciate the Workgroup on the State Option that the Board set up. Joining the State’s pension system is an attractive option that needs to be further explored. The State Option offers a simpler and competitive benefit. Understanding the State Option will be a key component of the Taskforce’s work. Consequently, I have invited representatives of the Workgroup to participate in this broader Taskforce of community stakeholders to review the State Option. Because the State Option is “irrevocable” and “exclusive,” the Taskforce will also need to understand and evaluate other options in order to provide a final recommendation. It is my hope that the internal Workgroup that has been reviewing the State Option will continue their technical review of the State Option and at some point the efforts of both the Taskforce and the Workgroup will eventually merge.

I have asked the County’s Director of Administrative Services, Teig Whaley-Smith, to be the project manager for this effort. Please let Teig and me know if you are able to send a representative by Friday, July 28th. An overview of the Taskforce and proposed meeting dates are attached.

Sincerely,

Chris Able