

**COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE**  
**Inter-Office Communication**

**Date:** July 14, 2015

**To:** Chris Abele, Milwaukee County Executive  
Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors

**From:** Jerome J. Heer, Director of Audits  
Paul Bargren, Corporation Counsel

**Subject:** Application of Minimum Wage Ordinance to MidAmerican Housekeeping Contract

We have been asked the current status of the application of Milwaukee County's Minimum Wage Ordinance (MWO) to the contract with MidAmerican Building Services. The MWO became effective for new contracts entered into on or after June 1, 2014. MidAmerican has been providing services on a month-to-month contract basis since January 17, 2013. There have been two efforts to award a successor contract to MidAmerican. Both of these initiatives failed to receive legislative support. As a practical matter, a brief extension of an existing contract may be necessary to allow time to solicit new proposals. In such a case, it may be reasonable to question the applicability of the MWO to a short extension. However, in this case, the MidAmerican contract extension has prolonged the service period for over a year. As such, the absence of compliance with the MWO should be addressed. We recommend that the County enter into discussions with MidAmerican to identify the best method for bringing them into compliance with the MWO.

  
Jerome J. Heer

  
Paul Bargren

JJH/PB/cah

cc: Scott B. Manske, Milwaukee County Comptroller  
Steve Cady, Policy & Research Director, Office of the Comptroller  
Janelle Jensen, Chief Committee Clerk, Office of the County Clerk