

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
Interoffice Memorandum

DATE: March 26, 2020

TO: Milwaukee County Board Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Willie Johnson, Jr., Chairman, Pension Study Commission

SUBJECT: A resolution/ordinance clarifying the Milwaukee County Code of General Ordinances regarding the necessary qualifications and exclusions for appointment of Pension Board members to conform the same with past practice, prior guidance, and other Milwaukee County ordinances and Wisconsin State Statutes (File No. 20-248)

The Pension Study Commission (PSC) is charged with issuing a written report on the actuarial effect, cost implications and desirability of proposed changes to the pension system. At its meeting on March 26, 2020, the PSC reviewed File No. 20-248, which outlines a proposed amendment to Chapter 201.24(8.1) and (8.2)(2) of the Milwaukee County General Ordinances. The ordinance amendments aim to clarify the definition of “family member” for any appointed members of the Pension Board as the ordinance states: “None of the appointed members of the pension board nor any family members of the appointed members of the pension board shall be participants in, or beneficiaries of, the Milwaukee County Employee Retirement System.”

In seeking to clarify the definition of family member, the resolution/ordinance attempts to align that definition in accordance with the definitions of “immediate family” and “family” used by the Milwaukee County Ethics Board, State of Wisconsin Ethics Board, and State of Wisconsin Investment Board. The definition proposed in File No. 20-248 defines family member as: “an individual’s:

- (a) Spouse;
- (b) Child, parent or sibling or in-law or step-relative of the same degree who receives, directly or indirectly, more than one-half (½) of his/her support from the individual or from whom the individual receives, directly or indirectly, more than one-half (½) of his/her support.”

Approval of the resolution/ordinance and clarified definition of “family member” would have no actuarial impact, would not incur any additional administrative expenses, and would not cause any changes to member benefits.

The PSC review File No. 20-248, which includes an amended resolution/ordinance, a fiscal note, and a response from the Pension Board. The Pension Board reviewed the File and provided commentary supporting “any effort from the County Board to amend the language in the Ordinances that provides further clarity to the Pension Board and ERS.”

Based on the information presented and contained in File No. 20-248, the Pension Study Commission voted (Vote 2-2) on the motion to adopt the resolution/ordinance and it proceeds to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors with no recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

Willie Johnson, Jr.

Willie Johnson, Jr., Chairman
Pension Study Commission

cc: County Executive Chris Abele
Margaret Daun, Corporation Counsel
Erika Bronikowski, Interim Director, Retirement Plan Services
Anne Kearney, Deputy Corporation Counsel
Steve Cady, Research and Policy Director, Office of the Comptroller
Shanin Brown, Committee Coordinator, County Clerk