

COUNTY OF MILWAUKEE
DAS – Division of Employee Benefits
INTER-OFFICE COMMUNICATION

DATE : July 5, 2011

TO : Chairman Lee Holloway, County Board of Supervisors

FROM : Gerald J. Schroeder, Interim Director, Employee Benefits Division

SUBJECT : **Report from the Interim Director, Division of Employee Benefits, regarding the legislative changes impacting employee benefits for the Deputy Sheriffs Association and Firefighters union.**

Issue/Background

The State biennial budget (2011 Wisconsin Act 32) was enacted on June 26th. Under this legislation, the design and selection of health care coverage plans by the municipal employer for public safety employees, and the impact of the design and selection of the health care coverage plans on the wages, hours, and conditions of employment of the public safety employees became a prohibited subject of bargaining.

As the Deputy Sheriffs Association and the Milwaukee County Firefighters Association are working under a status quo continuation of their expired contracts, Act 32 allows Milwaukee County to modify health coverage for these two bargaining units without negotiation.

Requested Action

Consistent with established Board policy regarding other bargaining units, including AFSCME District Council 48, and the recommendation of the Employee Benefits Work Group, the Benefits Division requests authorization to implement, as soon as administratively feasible, the Milwaukee County 2010 Group Health Benefit Plan for active employed members of the Deputy Sheriffs Association and the Milwaukee County Firefighters Association. The Benefits Division also requests authorization to implement the Milwaukee County 2011 Group Health Benefit Plan for retired members of the Deputy Sheriffs Association and the Milwaukee County Firefighters Association. These changes are consistent with the policy set forth in the 2011 Adopted Budget.

The attached resolution includes amended language for Section 17.14 of the Milwaukee County General Code of Ordinances to apply the changes requested above. Upon approval, the anticipated effective date of both changes would be August 1st, 2011.

Attachments

Cc: County Executive Chris Abele
George Aldrich, Chief of Staff, County Executive's Office
Pat Farley, Director of Administrative Services
John Jorgensen, Acting Corporation Counsel
Fred Bau, Interim Director of Labor Relations
Rick Ceschin, Senior Research Analyst, County Board
Steve Cady, Fiscal and Budget Analyst, County Board
Employee Benefits Workgroup
Carol Mueller, Chief Committee Clerk
Jodi Mapp, Personnel Committee Clerk