



**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2009**

Honorable Mayor and Common Council  
City of West Allis, Wisconsin

The Legislative Committee met on Tuesday, February 10, 2009, to discuss proposed bills pending before the Wisconsin Legislature.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Dan Devine  
Paul Ziehler, City Administrative Officer, Clerk/Treasurer  
Scott Post, City Attorney  
Gary Schmid, Manager of Finance

**EXCUSED:** Ald. Jim Sengstock

**LEAGUE: 5-6**

**1. REVIEW OF NEW LEGISLATION**

- AB9            MAKING VETERANS DAY A PAID HOLIDAY FOR VETERANS**  
Previously opposed as SB11 (1/27/09).
- SB20           ALLOWING PUNITIVE AND COMPENSATORY DAMAGES IN**  
**EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION CASES**  
Refer to Scott Post.
- SB35           DISTRIBUTION OF FIRST DOLLAR PROPERTY TAX CREDIT**  
No position.
- SB46           MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS ACT CHANGES**  
No position.
- AB15           HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM SPECTRUM**  
**DISORDERS**  
Previously opposed as SB3 (1/27/09).

1. **REVIEW OF NEW LEGISLATION Cont'd.**

**SB15/AB5 PAYMENT OF WISCONSIN SUPPLEMENTAL AND EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS IN THIS STATE**  
Refer to Audrey Key and Scott Post.

**AB8 MUNICIPAL QUOTAS FOR RETAIL INTOXICATING LIQUOR LICENSES**  
Refer to Paul Ziehler and Scott Post.

**AB10 REPORT ON FOOD SAFETY PROGRAMS**  
Refer to Terry Brandenburg.

2. **REVIEW OF REFERRED LEGISLATION**

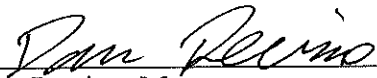
**SB2 ALLOWS UNIONS TO FILE WAGE CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF THEIR MEMBERS**  
OPPOSE, because this bill would expand the authority of the union to file wage claims on behalf of its employees when the City and the employee may otherwise be able to resolve the matter directly between themselves. Further, if unions are interested in obtaining this additional power, it should be done through negotiation with the employer in the collective bargaining process.

3. **OTHER**

- **Change to List of Legislative Ideas.**  
The Legislative Committee further discussed the first bullet under No. 2 (Library provisions), which was part of the Committee's comprehensive list of legislative ideas to submit to our three area legislators that was discussed/approved at the last Committee meeting on January 27. This further discussion was based on concern raised by Library Director Mike Koszalka about "authorizing the establishment of regional/metropolitan or county-wide library districts." Mr. Koszalka had expressed concern about this item being included in the City's list of suggestions. The Legislative Committee in reconsidering this idea decided to change the wording to make it clear that it was only authorizing the establishment of such districts where local libraries agreed to such. The Committee felt it was a good idea to at least have this option available in the future if it were ever needed based

on changing political or financial reasons. Therefore, the wording on this bullet was changed to read as follows:

- “Allowing or enabling the establishment of regional/metropolitan, county-wide, or multi-county library districts, not requiring or mandating them.”
- Proposed Federal Legislation.  
The Committee briefly discussed a new piece of legislation that is likely to be introduced soon in the U.S. Congress entitled the Employee Free Choice Act. The proposed legislation would change the method of labor unions being established from secret ballot elections to a public card check system.

  
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Dan Devine, Mayor