



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Michael Pertmer
Director

414/302-8888
414/302-8889 (Fax)

Municipal Yards
6300 West McGeoch Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53219
www.ci.west-allis.wi.us

To: Mayor Dan Devine
Alderman Mickey Czaplewski
Alderman Vince Vitale
Alderman Kurt Kopplin
Alderman Marty Weigel
Alderman Gary Barczak
Alderman Dick Narlock
Alderman Tom Lajsic
Alderman Dan Roadt
Alderman Rosalie Reinke
Alderman Jim Sengstock

From: Mike Pertmer, Director of Public Works 
Date: July 14, 2009
Re: Retirement

As most of you know, earlier this year I had decided to retire by the end of the calendar year. With the recent sale of our home, I have been able to select a date for the retirement. I have enclosed a copy of my letter of resignation that will be introduced at the next Common Council meeting. The letter details the various dates regarding my retirement.

The purpose of this memo is simply to give you some advanced notice since there is only one Council meeting in both July and August. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to call me.

Cc: Paul Ziehler, Audrey Key, Gary Schmid



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Michael Pertner
Director

414/302-8888
414/302-8889 (Fax)

Municipal Yards
6300 West McGeoch Avenue
West Allis, Wisconsin 53219

www.ci.west-allis.wi.us

July 14, 2009

Mayor Dan Devine & Members of the Common Council
7525 W. Greenfield Ave.
West Allis, WI 53214

Honorable Mayor and Council Members:

It is with a considerable number of mixed emotions that I submit this letter to you. After more than thirty-six years with the Department of Public Works, I have decided to retire from my position as Director. It is my intention to remain at work up to and including Friday October 2, 2009 after which I will utilize my remaining vacation and accrued vacation time which should be exhausted by the first week in November.

I have had the privilege of serving the community in which I grew up and have lived all of my life. Quite frankly, I never even considered a career in Public Works in my youth, much less, ever being afforded the ultimate opportunity to head, what I believe to be, with an acknowledged certain amount of bias, the most important department in the City.

Serving as the Director of Public Works for the past seventeen years and the Assistant Director for the prior eight years, I have found the job to be filled with numerous challenges and rewards. Right or wrong, I never sought or aspired to have the Department operate in the limelight. Rather, I preferred that our Department have a low-key presence and, to the best of our ability, simply perform the operations and services as best we could with the resources allotted. While the word hero is rarely associated with employees in the field of Public Works, I truly believe that these employees are heroes – Everyday Heroes; for they are the people who assure that a myriad of life's daily activities, most often taken for granted, take place without hindrance.

My longevity leading this Department could not have been accomplished without the ongoing help, support and trust of the various Mayors and Common Council members that I have served under. For that, I am truly grateful. It has made my job much more enjoyable. Of equal importance, over the years, I have had the great fortune to surround myself with a highly competent and professional support staff. As any manager knows, a good part of one's success is directly attributable to their staff. The continuous level of support that I have received from my division superintendents, secretary and other support staff and the comfort level I have in their abilities has made my job considerably less stressful and far more enjoyable.

Finally, I would like to thank the other City Department Heads and Managers, past and present, who have given support to both myself and the Department over the years. In these difficult economic times, the City faces many challenges. The Mayor and Common Council can take comfort in knowing that they have a dedicated staff of managers capable of standing up and effectively confronting the challenges that the City is certain to face over the next number of years.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Pertmer".

Michael F. Pertmer
Director of Public Works