

**CITY OF MADISON
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY
Room 401, CCB
266-4511**

Date: May 17, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Common Council and relevant BCCs – Farmland Preservation Task Force Report

FROM: Assistant City Attorney Kate Smith

RE: Action on Solitary Reports

This memorandum clarifies MGO 2.27, Common Council Action on Solitary Reports in light of the pending item to accept the report of the Farmland Preservation Task Force. Acceptance of the report, or recommending acceptance of the report, is not an endorsement of the contents of the report. In other words, voting to “accept” or “adopt” the report merely signals the completion of the requested work.

Under MGO 2.27, in order for any recommendations in the report to become actionable, a separate ordinance or resolution adopting or accepting specific recommendations would need to follow. There is no need to submit analysis of the report during the action to accept unless the report failed to produce the ordered scope of work. It would be appropriate not to recommend adoption if the report fails to include research or analysis of the requested subject, not if there is disagreement on the content of the report.