

CITY OF MADISON
Common Council
INTER-DEPARTMENTAL
CORRESPONDENCE
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Rm. 417
266-4071

DATE: February 6, 2007

TO: Ald. Austin King, Common Council President
Members of the Common Council Organizational Committee

FROM: Ald. Ken Golden, District 10

SUBJECT: **Sponsorship and Substitutes**

I've been following this issue for the past few weeks/months, and I want to share an opinion you might find constructive.

If five people sponsor a resolution or ordinance change and refer it to three committees, and should any or all of those committees make changes in that item as it was originally introduced, it is my belief that the Council rules should provide that the substitute becomes the property of the committee and is an appropriate substitute. I suggest that once the substitute is entered into Legistar, the original sponsors be contacted to see if they support the substitute. I also think that should the sponsors of the original want that original to continue in the process, it should be allowed to do so and it should, at the sponsors' request, be included on the Council agenda after all committees have taken up the matter.

My rationale for this is that I think when you introduce something to the process, it becomes the property of the body. I don't think we should be listing sponsors who may not want their names attached to items that have been altered by one or more committees. By the same token, I don't think the original sponsors' concurrence should be a requirement in order for the substitute to have validity. I also think we have to allow for the possibility that there would be no aldermanic sponsors of a resolution or ordinance referred to a committee. The committee itself should be in a position to actually sponsor a resolution or ordinance, given that the Council has referred it there.

I hope this isn't too confusing, and I hope it is constructive and helpful in your deliberation. By sending a copy of this to the City Attorney, I am requesting that Mr. May draft a Council rule for introduction and consideration by the Common Council Organizational Committee.

Thanks much for your attention.

cc: Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
Mike May, City Attorney