

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

DATE: August 9, 2005

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Common Council Organizational Committee**

FROM: Michael P. May, City Attorney

SUBJECT: **Review and Revision of Ordinances**

We recently discussed, as a follow up to some ordinance drafts and the Economic Development Commission report, a method of regularly reviewing and revising the code of ordinances. Our office will be undertaking a two-fold plan to keep the ordinances up to date and to eliminate obsolete portions.

1. I have instituted a procedure whereby, when persons in our office find improper references, outdated language or other mistakes in the ordinances, we log them on to a list. Then, on an annual basis, we will prepare what amounts to an "attorney revisers ordinance" and submit it to the Council for the cleanup.

I perceive this sort of ordinance to contain non-controversial or technical amendments. We have started drafting such an ordinance for this year.

2. The second part is to have an ongoing working plan with the CCOC to review various parts of the ordinances. I don't think we should try to take on more than one specific area at a time. My proposal for initial examination and revision would be Chapter 3 of the ordinances. This chapter contains a number of unrelated items. I would suggest that we break it into subchapters to include most items, and consider creating a new Chapter 3-A to contain the compensation plan ordinance, Sec. 3.38. Sec. 3.38 itself is over 100 pages long.

If this proposal is acceptable, I would suggest that our office come back to the CCOC every two months with an update on our progress on our draft revisions to Chapter 3.

Michael P. May
City Attorney

cc: Mayor Cieslewicz
Mario Mendoza

MPM:pah