

From: Harrington-McKinney, Barbara
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 4:08 PM
To: All Alders
Cc: Obeng, Kwasi
Subject: Legislative File #60515 - ALDER APPOINTMENTS (CCC & FC)

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Council Colleges -

This is the first time that I have reached out to you as a collective body asking for consideration and support.

I have been left in limbo since my conversation with the Mayor, on Sunday May 3, when she telephoned me at my home to inform me that she had been waiting for President Carter to make the appointments to the Common Council Executive Committee (CCEC) before making her decision. As I had been reappointed by President Carter to the (CCEC), she was considering replacing me on the Finance Committee and appointing Alder Bidar. Reason given: President Carter had reappointed me to the (CCEC). Her decision based on such rational was immediately disheartening to hear. I was appointed to the Finance Committee by Former Mayor Paul Soglin when first elected in 2015. I have served in that capacity continuously. I was then reappointed to the Finance Committee by the current Mayor in 2019 to serve a 2-year term. It was, therefore, both surprising and disturbing that the Mayor had connected her decision of replacing me on the Finance Committee based upon my re-appointment to the (CCEC).

Colleagues, the Mayor's actions sets a dangerous precedent. This action was not only unmerited, but also gives the Mayor power to replace Alders assigned to the Finance Committee "at will", and without cause. This is an unprecedented action by the Mayor. In a subsequent email the Mayor stated "I still encourage you to remain on (CCEC) and the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee, as I believe your contributions to those bodies have been very important. I don't want to speak for Sheri, but I believe her choice of you for (CCEC) speaks to her confidence in you." It appears that I was an effective choice for the (CCEC) and representing the African American Committee on the Complete Count Committee but not as a representative on the Finance Committee. My question "when had the Mayor "lost confidence in my remaining on the Finance Committee"? Exerting such Executive power is troublesome.

I further learned that my appointment to the 2020 Census Complete Count Committee would end in April as well and was a (CCEC) appointment. The 2020 Census Count Committee is linked to my reappointment to the (CCEC). It concerned me that the Mayor's action may bring to question my contributions as an effective contributor to other committee's on which I am currently appointed. I have sat at the Finance Committee table since 2015. I have tried to be a strong advocate on all issues brought before the Council.

It is about process. I am challenging the process. I am not asking you to compare me with Alder Bidar. Alder Bidar and I have served in an immediate co-leadership role as immediate President and Vice President of the Council. Keep it about the process and avoid it being personal. Legislative File #60514 is about the Report of the Mayor submitting committee appointments. Submitted for your consideration and approval, the following Alder committee appointments.

COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE

ALD BARBARA HARRINGTON-MCKINNEY, District 1 - reappoint time the position of Common Council Executive Committee Mrmber. TERM EXPIRES: 4-29-2021.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

ALDER SHIVA BIDAR, District 5 - appoint to the remainder of a two-year term to the position of Common Council Member succeeding Ald. Harrington-Mckinney. TERM EXPIRES: 4-20-2021.

To have the Mayor's intent move forward is a slap in my face. I am deeply concerned that she gave ni consideration to that.

In my service on the 2020 Complete Count Committee our message to underrepresented communities has been BE COUNTED...BECAUSE YOU MATTER. I did not register the full impact of the Mayor's word until faced with her actions. The reality is that there is much going on in our city with COVID-19 and that the impact of budgetary decisions going forward will challenge how the City will move through and beyond this pandemic.

There are critical decisions to be made collaboratively by the Mayor, the elected 20 Alders under the leadership of President Carter and Vice President Abbas. We are about the business of the City of Madison and how do we move forward rather than taking actions that only engages in further divisiveness. .

Why did the Mayor feel compelled to replace one Alder, Barbara Harrington-McKinney on the Finance Committee? I am asked each time...why? The Mayor has given me this answer: your appointment by President Carter to the CCEC.

I will continue to have the greatest respect for both the Office of Mayor of the City of Madison and the President of the Madison Common Council. I do trust that you can understand why the Mayor's actions were both a great disappointment to me as well as a slap in my face. The words from Mayor Satya Rhodes-Conway now seem empty and meaningless.

I cannot predict what your decisions will be tonight, but I can only request that you reject Legislative File #60514.

But whatever the outcome, I rest in confidence that I needed to set the record straight and author my own story.

Finally, I express my special gratitude to the many leaders in our community who stepped up to challenge a system supporting a process that is NOT always Fair.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alder Barbara Harrington-McKinney

May 19, 2020

Committee Assignments

Carter	Kemble	Moreland	Harrington-McKinney	Furman	Verveer	Bidar
ALRC	CCEC	City-County Homeless Issues Committee	CCEC?	Board of Public Works	Aging	CCEC
CCEC	Economic Development	Early Childhood Care & Education Committee	Disability Rights	Employee Relations	ALRC	Community Services

CDA	Food Policy	Economic Development	Downtown Coordinating	Digital Technology	Downtown Coordinating	CDD Conference Committee
Arts Commission	TPPB	EOC	Library Board			