
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Aldermen Call For Internal Investigation, Discipline For DPW Canal St. Conduct

Council Members Decry Audit Findings, Urge Mayor Barrett to Launch Probe

Four members of the Milwaukee Common Council have formally requested that Mayor Tom Barrett initiate an internal investigation into findings of repeated, deliberate misrepresentations by Department of Public Works officials concealing more than \$20 million in costs for the Canal Street reconstruction and improvement project.

In a letter issued today, Ald. Jim Bohl and Aids. Joe Dudzik, Bob Donovan and Tony Zielinski ask the mayor to launch an internal investigation to determine whether DPW officials – many still employed by the city – knowingly misled members of the Council regarding Canal Street project costs. “Given the serious nature of the allegations raised (in the audit released last week by Comptroller W. Martin “Wally” Morics), we are urging you to initiate an internal probe to seek further answers to the question of how much was known at the time when testimony was relayed by DPW officials that the cost for the Canal Street project would be \$20 million,” the letter states.

The letter continues: “Furthermore, we believe that such an investigation should consider the level of culpability of individuals responsible for these actions.”

If the investigation’s findings determine there was deliberate misrepresentation by DPW officials, discipline should be meted out – including the possibility of termination, the aldermen’s letter states.

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Council Members Urge Probe/ADD ONE

Although they repeatedly told Council members that the total project cost would be \$20 million, DPW officials knew the costs would actually be much higher, in the range of \$40 million or more, according to the audit released last week by the Comptroller's Office.

The total bill for the project to reconstruct and improve Canal Street in the Menomonee Valley between 6th and 25th Streets has come to more than \$52 million. The huge cost discrepancy caused some \$25 million in DPW infrastructure funds to be pulled away from at least nine other budgeted projects. Those projects – including bridge repairs, sewer work and paving projects – were delayed because of the massive Canal Street costs.

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