



## Office of the Mayor

Paul R. Soglin, Mayor

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Date: June 14, 2016

To: Mike Koval  
Chief of Police

From: Mayor Paul R. Soglin

Subject: 2017 Capitol/Operating Budget – Alternative Police Department Space Needs Assessment without the Midtown Facility

The City faces considerable challenges in presenting 2017 operating and capital budgets that meet our priorities and keep property taxes affordable. In an environment of state-mandated limits on property taxes and other local revenue sources, the need to make investments in key infrastructure projects, and the goal of wage equity for all City employees, we must do all we can to protect existing service levels and avoid layoffs.

With this in mind, I am directing that you work with City Engineer Rob Phillips to delay construction of the Midtown Police Station. This will help reduce debt service related to a new facility and the associated operating costs, including new positions. Instead, I am directing that MPD, City Engineering and City Finance work together to develop alternatives to meet the need for more space by police officers and address the allocation of workload across the City without construction of a new facility.

These are difficult decisions to make on my part. As recently as my 2015 executive capital budget, I had included the Midtown Police Station in the capital improvement plan for construction in 2019. Unfortunately, there are limited means to meet our priorities and the construction and staffing of a new facility in 2016 and 2017 is unrealistic. I greatly appreciate your efforts and the efforts of the hard-working first responders in your department. I look forward to the day when we have a realistic and pragmatic approach to financing local government services in Wisconsin.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Soglin".

Paul R. Soglin  
Mayor

cc: Rob Phillips, City Engineer  
David Schmiedicke, City Finance Director  
Anne Monks, Deputy Mayor