

# ALDERPERSON AGENDA ITEM MEMO

To: **Government Affairs Committee**

From: Council President Joe Phillips, District 7

Date: May 30, 2026

Subject: Direction to City Attorney — Municipal Code Conformance with Twelve-District, One-Alder-Per-District Structure

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## A. Background/Rationale

The City of Wauwatosa has established a Common Council consisting of twelve (12) aldermanic districts, with one (1) alder elected from each district. This structure is operative and in practice. Certain provisions of the Municipal Code — including references to district counts, Council membership totals, quorum thresholds, committee composition, and related governance language — may not fully reflect this established structure and require correction. Inconsistencies between the Code's text and the City's actual governing structure create ambiguity that complicates administration, legal interpretation, and public understanding of how the Council operates.

## B. Key Issues for Consideration

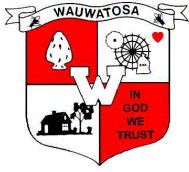
The City Attorney will need to identify every provision of the Municipal Code that references aldermanic district counts, Council membership totals, quorum thresholds, committee composition, voting requirements, and any other language affected by the twelve-district, one-alder-per-district structure. All such provisions must be identified before draft amendatory language can be prepared. Any amendments must also be reviewed for conformance with applicable Wisconsin State Statutes, including Wis. Stat. § 62.09 governing city officers. This memo accompanies a resolution directing the City Attorney to conduct that review and return recommended draft language to the Common Council.

## C. Fiscal Impact

None anticipated. This is a housekeeping action to bring the Municipal Code into conformance with the City's existing governance structure. No new expenditures are proposed, and no change to aldermanic compensation, staffing, or operations is contemplated.

## D. Operational Considerations

The City Attorney's review may identify provisions that require amendment by ordinance, which would necessitate separate legislative action following the report. No substantive change to the City's representative structure is proposed by this resolution. The resolution does not authorize structural reform — it directs a conformance review to ensure the Code accurately reflects what the City already does.



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## E. Requested Action

That the Government Affairs Committee approve the attached resolution directing the City Attorney to review all applicable Municipal Code provisions, identify every section requiring amendment to conform to the twelve-district, one-alder-per-district structure, prepare draft amendatory language, and report findings to the Common Council as soon as practicable. That the Committee forward the resolution to the full Common Council with a recommendation for adoption.