

City of Milwaukee: Likely criminal case looming against former deputy director of the Election Commission

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Statement of Milwaukee Common Council members: Alderman Michael J. Murphy, Alderman Robert J. Bauman, Alderwoman Milele A. Coggs, Alderwoman JoCasta Zamarripa, Alderman Mark A. Borkowski, Alderman José G. Pérez, and Alderman Scott Spiker

We applaud Mayor Johnson's decision to terminate the employment of Kimberly Zapata, now former deputy director of the Election Commission.

The news that Ms. Zapata reportedly violated her oath and the public trust by fraudulently requesting military absentee ballots – and then sending those ballots to a state legislator – is shocking, sad and extremely disappointing. Although she apparently did this outside of work and on her own time, that fact does NOT matter. Her actions leave a stain on the Election Commission and city government that is hurtful and unwarranted, but nonetheless damaging.

We are calling on the office of the Milwaukee County District Attorney to initiate an investigation into this matter, and we plan to bring the director of the Election Commission before one or more Council committees to answer questions about this matter.

Despite the actions of this now former city official, we continue to have faith in our election workers, our system, and the overall integrity of our election operation in the City of Milwaukee.