

From: Eric & Nora Garland <garlanden@gmail.com>
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To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Resolution 25-1054 Director of Operations Proposed Position

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La Crosse City Council Members,

I am writing today to express opposition to the proposed hiring of a Director of Operations position for the City of La Crosse. My reasons are as follows:

1. As written, the proposal would create an expensive position for a person who is responsible only to the elected mayor as opposed to being accountable to all voters represented by the city council. As such, the Director of Operations position would likely be less stable since personnel could change with each mayoral election.
2. The city has already begun a thorough process for examining pros and cons of a city administrator position, and this would short circuit that process. Or would it continue, and might we end up with TWO new administrators?
3. Although the salary / benefits package for the Director of Operations position would be somewhat lower in cost than for an administrator, so would the qualifications. Also, potential candidates may be turned off by the possibility of the job ending with each mayoral election.

I have felt for some time that La Crosse is a large enough and complex enough city to warrant creating a city administrator position. La Crosse deserves a well qualified professional administrator who will have oversight by the city council and who will have some assurance of continuity in the position. I urge you to reject the stop gap, temporary fix approach of a Director of Operations as outlined in Resolution 25-1054.

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