1151. Mozart to the City Council of Vienna

Gentlemen of the Council! / The submissive petition / of Wolfgang Amadè Mozart
Imperial and Royal Court Composer/ to be made Adjunct / Music Director
at St. Stephan's /Cathedral Church.

[Vienna, before 28th April,[1] 1791]

[5] Most Praiseworthy
Most Prudent Viennese City Council
Gracious Gentlemen!

While esteemed Music Director Hofmann[2] lay ill, I chose to take the liberty of requesting his position. Since my musical talents and works as well as my compositional skills are known throughout other lands, [10] since my name is considered worthy of some estimation everywhere, and since I myself have had the privilege of being employed for some years now at this Most Elevated Court as composer, I hoped to be not unworthy of this position and to merit the favour of a Most Prudent City Council.
[15] But Music Director Hofmann has recovered again, and under these circumstances, since I am most heartily glad to see that his life has been prolonged as I wished, I thought it might perhaps be of service to the Cathedral Church and of advantage to yourselves, gracious Gentlemen, if I were made *adjunct* music director – for the moment unpaid – to this now older colleague, [20] and thus receive the opportunity to assist this Honest Man in his duties and to win the estimation of the Most Prudent City Council by active service. As my training and skills include the church style, I may consider myself more capable than others of performing such service.

[25] your most submissive servant
Wolfgang Amadé Mozart mp[3]
Imperial and Royal Court Composer.[4]

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[1] Cf. BD VI, p. 408; correction of BD IV, p. 131, which has "Beginning of May". The receipt of the petition is recorded on the reverse side as 28th April, 1791.
[2] "Hr: Kapellmeister". BD: Leopold Hofmann (1738-1793), was in poor health for a long time, but died after Mozart on 17th March, 1793. The accepted petition, decreed on 9th May, 1791, and signed by mayor Joseph Georg Hörl, was therefore never enacted.
[3] *manu propria* = in my own hand.
[4] "k. k. Hofkompositor".