

October 10, 2008

City Plan Commission
c/o Vanessa Koster
Assistant Director of Planning
Department of City Development
809 N. Broadway
Milwaukee, WI 53203

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express the strong support of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation for the proposal by Our Space to develop the Empowerment Village facility at its current site.

Permanent supported housing for persons with disabilities, particularly mental illness, is one of this community's most critical needs. It is most encouraging to see Our Space, with its long history of service to people with mental illness, proposing to address it.

With assets of over \$500 million, the Greater Milwaukee Foundation is the largest community foundation in the State and one of the oldest and largest in the country. We provided some of the initial funding to establish the Our Space program 20 years ago and have been a significant supporter since. During this time, they have consistently provided high quality service and both programmatic and fiscal accountability. We hope you will find similar merit in this proposal

Please feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to discuss the program further.

Sincerely,

James A. Marks
Vice President/Director of Grant Programs