

**MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS****JENNIFER MORALES**

Board of School Directors  
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City Plan Commission  
City of Milwaukee  
via email and fax

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to express my opposition to the construction of a UWM dorm at the Hometown site on the Milwaukee River. As an elected official representing the east side and as an east side resident, I oppose further development on the banks of the river at this time.

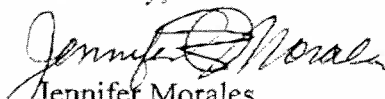
We live at a moment and in a place of immense world importance, although as city leaders we are only now coming to understand how significant this time and place are. It is frequently said that water is the new oil and I'm in full agreement with that assessment. Our understanding of the importance of fresh water systems, their real value, their fragility, and their care is still very limited. This is not the moment to surrender any place on the river to more development.

I know from my eight years in elected office that it can be very hard for decision makers to tell when we are at a decisive moment that will influence the distant future of the city in major ways (a "watershed" moment, may be the especially apt description of such a point). It is hard to know for sure, but it is my firm belief that this is such a moment. We either decide to defend our fresh waterways with everything we've got right now or we place our finite, unique, and much-coveted resources at risk.

As a school board member, I spend a great deal of time thinking about what will be best for Milwaukee's children this week, next year, and fifty years from now. That long view is essential in maintaining the public's interest and protecting our resources.

Please keep Milwaukee's children's children in mind when you make your decision today.

Sincerely,

  
Jennifer Morales  
5<sup>th</sup> District Director

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