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August 28, 2009

Alderman James Witkowiak, Chair, and members of
Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee
City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Chairman Witkowiak and members of the Committee,

There has been much discussion and a significant amount of media coverage of the proposed City purchase of 84 acres at the former Tower Automotive site, and creation of a Tax Increment District to provide for redevelopment of the site. On Friday, a Journal/Sentinel article indicated that the City Comptroller's report on the proposal points out significant risks associated with the project, but also that the project "provides an unprecedented employment opportunity for neighborhood, city and metro area residents which cannot be overlooked." I could not agree more with that statement.

When our family was growing up on 13th and Capitol, many of our neighbors, black and white, men and women, worked at the then A. O. Smith plant, and made family supporting wages, whether in the office or on the plant floor. The neighborhood has gone through tremendous changes over the years. The loss of jobs at this location and elsewhere in the heart of Milwaukee has contributed to a pattern of disinvestment, deterioration of property and decline of opportunities that pervades broad sections of the central city. Job creation in close-in city locations needs to be a part of our strategy to reinvigorate these neighborhoods, along with strengthening families, providing good educational opportunities and continuing the recent progress in reducing crime and restoring a sense of safety and order in neighborhoods.

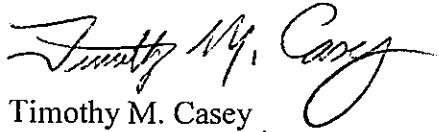
As the immediate Past President of The Corridor (formerly the 30th St. Industrial Corridor Corporation), I can assure you that The Corridor Board of Directors, staff and member companies stand ready to work shoulder to shoulder with the City as we begin the revitalization of this strategic site.

While the challenges we will face at the Tower site and elsewhere in The Corridor will be greater than those faced in the Menomonee Valley, we need look no further than the redevelopment of the former Capitol Court into Midtown Center for an example of significant rebirth in the immediate area. The Tower site has the visibility, road and rail access, nearby labor force and sufficient size to be a catalytic project for The Corridor, and achieve critical mass in its impact, as the Midtown Center redevelopment has on the retail side.

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It is my hope that the committee will recommend this project, the City Council will adopt it, and that we can work together to begin the revitalization of The Corridor and vast stretches of the north side of Milwaukee in earnest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy M. Casey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy M. Casey
Past President – 30th St. ICC (The Corridor)
Principal Equity Commercial Real Estate, LLC