

From: [Marty Brooks](#)

Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 4:46 PM

To: [Bauman, Robert](#)

Subject: Mask ordinance

As the President and CEO of the Wisconsin Center District (WCD) – owners and operators of the Wisconsin Center, Miller High Life Theatre and UW-Milwaukee Panther Arena - I am writing to you today to encourage you to vote against resolution 210628, the mask ordinance proposed January 7 at the Public Safety and Health Committee meeting, during this Tuesday's Common Council meeting.

In 2020 we saw firsthand what happens when one municipality has a mask mandate and surrounding areas don't: business leaves. A vote for the mandate could affect the District's business and push it outside of the City. Business lost by our venues means business lost for hotels, restaurants, bars, and lost jobs for the thousands of people employed therein.

I am committed to acting in the best interest of our staff and guests and our clients. The WCD invested in PPE, and upgraded sanitation and air handling systems. We also lead the charge in requiring every member of the front and back-of-house staff to be fully vaccinated as well as requiring masks for all staff. You may recall, the Ballroom of the Wisconsin Center was home to the Health Department's vaccine clinic from January-May, 2021. Over 125 days we helped get nearly 145,000 doses into arms. What a moment of pride for us all.

I take the pandemic seriously. I care deeply about the safety of our staff and guests. For nearly two years the WCD has demonstrated that keeping people safe while keeping our doors open is possible – a mandate now will result in more negative outcomes for the community at large than positive and put the economy of the City of Milwaukee at risk of not recovering from the pandemic.

Thank you,

Marty

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President and CEO

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