
From: TheBid19 . <milwbid19@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2015 5:09 PM
To: Alderman Ashante' Hamilton
Subject: Dissolution of BID 19

Dear Alderman Hamilton

It has come to our attention that the CED agenda for October 26, 2015, item 23 is for the dissolution of Villard Avenue BID 19.

We would ask that you please reconsider sponsoring this agenda item.

We feel that you should reconsider based on the following reasons:

- We were not aware that you were dissatisfied with the activities or operations of the BID. We have not received any communications from your office regarding any issues that you have had with us. Your office has not contacted us in order to address any concerns. Nor have we received any comments in response to our any agendas or minutes from our board meetings. Had any of these things happened, it would have at least given us the chance to "right any wrongs", but we were not given that opportunity.
- We are aware that our current board has made some mistakes. None of these were willful. We have been working with DCD in order to move in a better direction. At our Annual meeting held on October 8, we opened the floor for board nominations, we have submitted 12 names as candidates to be on the board, 7 of which have been active with the BID, but have not held board positions before. We are trying to infuse some fresh blood into the board to get new ideas and insight into how to make Villard Avenue stronger and more vital than ever. These folks are excited about potentially being a part of the BID leadership, but that cannot happen in a dissolved BID.
- We are also aware that you may have received some communications from Mr. Walter Chesser. Mr. Chesser is a disgruntled former board member and treasurer, who resigned after some of his misdeeds were brought to light during our audit. Mr. Chesser has gone about promoting a smear campaign against the BID, touting mistakes that **HE** participated in, knew about, and even sponsored. We know that Mr. Chesser has made a lot of noise, however, if his noise has anything to do with your decision to ask that the BID be dissolved, it is unfair to us to accept his accusations as facts, without an investigation or even listening to the opposing side. You can't try a case without allowing the defense to even speak. Hear us out, and you will see that board is made up of people who are sincere in their desire to make Villard Avenue better.
- The BID has recently hired a manager, me. I have been charged to work closely with DCD to make sure that the BID is operating properly. I have been charged with recruiting businesses to the area. I have been charged with building relationships with and between our Businesses. And most of all, making sure that the same mistakes that were made before are not repeated.
- Lastly, who's going to be working for Villard Avenue? Who's going to help businesses get started in the area? Who's going to recruit established businesses to move to the area? Who will be working with the business owners on promotions, grants, zoning, permits, etc.? We know your office is very busy and does not always have time to work with your constituents on these matters, that is what we are here for.

We're trying to head in a new direction. Please sit down with us, let us know where you think we can do better, and give us the chance to it.

We would appreciate and anticipate your response.

Daniel Blackburn
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