

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

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Finance & Personnel Committee

Steering & Rules Committee



ROBERT G. DONOVAN

Alderman, 8th District

October 7, 2009

Dear Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee,

I strongly encourage you to vote in favor of File #090555, which includes an allocation of \$4 million for the Longfellow Journey House Project, which is in my district.

Over the last nine months, I have worked closely with the Zilber Neighborhood Initiative Clarke Square and its lead agency Journey House. Over 45 agencies in my district came together with resident leaders to assist in developing a vision that we hope becomes reality. I am impressed with the energy of my district's residents, who worked tirelessly and spent hundreds of hours preparing a Quality of Life Plan. On September 9th, over 300 residents attended the Zilber Celebration at Longfellow, where resident leaders showcased the Quality of Life Plan. One of the nine strategies is the Community-School Partnership for a new Journey House Longfellow. Our community vision is to provide an academic and athletic facility that honors Clarke Square residents and offers adequate and appropriate space for families to learn and play.

Journey House will build a \$5.95 million addition to MPS Longfellow School. This is a joint partnership of a result producing community organization, Journey House, and a high performing/valued added MPS School, Longfellow, to share the facility to provide education and recreation services to residents. This joint facility meets the community demand for increased services, classrooms and educational space, indoor sports venues and recreational areas, and green space on asphalt beach playground. Journey House has secured \$3 million (51%) in private funding towards this capital campaign. The project is "shovel-ready" and will create immediate local jobs.

I firmly believe that this project will benefit both my district and the entire City of Milwaukee. This is a model that can be used in other neighborhoods, where residents work together to secure resources and agencies genuinely partner to increase the quality of life for our children and families.

Thank you for your consideration of this catalytic project that will assist in economic development, social change, and educational achievement of our Milwaukeeans.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bob".

Robert G. Donovan
Alderman, 8th District