

Lee, Chris

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 2:19 PM
To: Lee, Chris
Cc: Coggs, Milele; Jackson, DiAndre; Spiker, Scott; Perez, Jose; Stamper II, Russell
Subject: FW: Legislative File 250966

Please add to file.

From: Peter Rickman <peter.rickman@mashworkers.org>
Sent: Thursday, October 2, 2025 1:55 PM
To: Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Legislative File 250966

Alderman Bauman,

On behalf of the Milwaukee Area Service and Hospitality Workers Union, I would like to express support for legislative file 250966.

As you know, we view downtown development as vital to the interests of our members. Yes, we want to see high-quality development that builds a vibrant downtown oriented toward entertainment, tourism and hospitality. We also seek to ensure that development produces quality jobs for the post-construction workforce. Likewise we prioritize wise use of public resources, from the opportunity costs of land use to tax subsidies for developers.

Milwaukee has become a center of low-wage, no-benefit, insecure, casual work, especially in the hospitality industry. Policy-makers should make transformation of this work a top priority. While some tools are limited, that means policy-makers must be absolutely certain to use what are available when opportunities present.

The Marcus Center parking garage property represents one of most important development sites in all of Milwaukee, the region and the state. The kind of development that can and should be supported there will shape downtown, its economic development impacts, and the vitality of the hospitality, entertainment and tourism sectors for multiple generations. Careful consideration must go into the entirety of the development process, from pre-RFP deliberations to ultimate decision-making on land-use, public subsidies, and otherwise. The kind of development happening on this site, too, can and should impact positively the nature of hospitality, entertainment and tourism industry work in Milwaukee. City policy-makers should factor and include this in the whole lifecycle of seeking, advancing and supporting development on this site. We ask to be a part of that.

Along with redevelopment of critical sites like Vel Phillips & Wisconsin and the 6th Street State office building as well as potential projects like a convention center headquarters hotel some are seeking to advance, the Marcus Center garage site can be part of an economic development renaissance for Milwaukee -- or could produce more of the same: economic development that enriches developers and investors while producing more low-wage, no-benefit, casual, insecure non-union work in post-construction employment.

Restarting -- and re-envisioning -- the development process for this site can and should be part of a new commitment by the City of Milwaukee for responsible and equitable development in downtown Milwaukee that delivers real community benefits as defined by people who ought to have a voice, the working class of

Milwaukee (and not just what developers and investors tell us are community benefits that happen to be what they want to do).

We support this legislative file because it represents an opportunity to cast a new mold for downtown economic development at a time our City needs it badly -- too much is at stake for the people of Milwaukee with such heady, important development opportunities while we have such substantial problems of social and economic inequality and injustice.

We look forward to working with you and other City officials in future consideration of the Marcus Center parking garage site, as well as others in the downtown development pipeline. Please be in touch with other questions.

Peter

PS I hope to attend the ZND Committee meeting on Tuesday but believe it unlikely I will be able to testify as I am scheduled in several meetings with other policy-makers (State level) at the time.

--

Peter Rickman

President

Milwaukee Area Service & Hospitality Workers Union

920.284.4710 (cell) | peter.rickman@mashworkers.org