

July 16, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council  
City Hall Room 205  
200 E Wells St  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Alderman Murphy,

In 2020, it was very hard for my business. I had opened this amazing Bookstore (which is the First of Its Kind) and was nervous about being able to stay afloat during COVID. I faced major dilemmas but was amazed and teary-eyed when I found out that I was able to receive a Grant through the Restart Program. This program literally saved my business last year with each of its phases I was able to employ others, pay rent, buy supplies, inventory, remodel – and many other things within my business.

DDS Mediaworks LLC. Dba Darick Books urges the Common Council to adopt Council File Number 210547, Mayor Tom Barrett's first allocation of American Rescue Plan funding. The Stronger Summer Plan provides over \$93 million in needed funding for a range of critical programs as a first phase in the Mayor's Recovery and Resilience Plan. These resources will help Milwaukee continue a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through the summer and into fall.

The Stronger Summer proposal is a strong first step toward a more resilient city. The plan is grounded in racial equity and inclusion, and takes intentional first steps to address the unequal impact of COVID-19 on Milwaukee residents.

The Stronger Summer package makes investments in affordable housing and homeownership that will benefit Milwaukee families this year. It provides funding to help Milwaukee's small businesses and diverse entrepreneurs weather what we all hope are the final days of the pandemic. The plan expands resources to households facing eviction, and funds important efforts to continue building high-quality early childhood education for families. It makes investments to increase employment and wages for Milwaukee workers through training and career pathways.

Your support of the Stronger Summer plan will help Milwaukee emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger and more equitable. We urge you again to adopt the plan when it is before the Council this month.

Sincerely,

Darick Spears  
Darick Books  
DDS Mediaworks LLC.