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2001 W Vliet St., Milwaukee, WI, 53205

The Milwaukee-McKinley Mission

Let's Give Back, Where Milwaukee Needs it Most.

*Petition to transform McKinley School into a **Non-Profit Community Center***

We, the undersigned, are residents of the Milwaukee area who support the renovation and construction on a non-profit community center, repurposing the old McKinley school building and grounds. We are concerned, and against repurposing the school as an apartment and housing complex. The community center aims to provide resources to local minorities in mentorship, education, financial literacy, and economic relief, as well as providing access to a number of facilities necessary for a higher quality of life. Due to the following factors, we urge you to consider the opportunity to grow a very central area to the city.

- The area around McKinley school grounds is comprised of **40% single mothers**, the **highest concentration of single mothers in the country** (1).
- Median household income falls **under $17,000** (1).
- It has a much higher than average violent crime rate, with an already high **18% vacancy rate** (1).
- Test scores in the area are nearly **30% lower** in this district compared to the state of Wisconsin, with **only 7% of all residents having a college degree** (1).
- An **obesity rate of 36.2%,** with severely lacking recreational facilities, while being a food desert (4,5).

Each of these demonstrates a *dire* need for community support. There is **NO** need for more apartments when there is nobody to buy them. The following benefits would come from transforming the grounds into a community center, breaking down what the center would provide.

- Providing access to a **Minority Performing Arts Center**, in conjunction with a partnered **education and tutoring program** has been shown to reduce crime rates in lower income areas (2).
- A **free pre-schooling service for children**, with a **career development center for parents**, has shown success in improving both reading and test scores, as well as providing skills training, financial literacy, and job placements, increasing the overall income of the area (3).
- Cutting into the obesity epidemic by providing **exercise facilities**, as well as leasing out spaces to local businesses, including a **grocery store** and **market**. This would provide a boost to the local economy, and offer options for creating a healthier lifestyle.

Please. We need your help. **We can't do this alone**. We're ready to grow. Provide support to our cause by signing your name!

References

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