



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

# Milwaukee County

Gery Lyday • Director

December 14, 2010

Ald. Witkowiak  
12<sup>th</sup> District  
Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee  
Common Council – City of Milwaukee  
City Hall  
Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Mr. Witkowiak:

The Milwaukee County is proud to support the proposed substitute ordinance relating to zoning regulations for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing as File Number 100848.

The Milwaukee County Housing Division began in 2007 with a main focus on ensuring the development of permanent supportive housing in Milwaukee County. Since its creation, the division has partnered to develop over 330 permanent supportive housing units. Although this is a tremendous start, local data shows that there is much progress to be made.

In February of 2010, the Milwaukee Continuum of Care released its 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness (the Plan). Permanent housing is one of the four pillars to end homelessness in Milwaukee contained within the Plan which calls for the development of 1260 new permanent supportive housing units within 10 years. This Plan was presented and approved by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors and the City of Milwaukee Common Council.

The proposed City of Milwaukee Code of Ordinance zoning changes contained in File Number 100848 are the result of this Plan. These regulations will establish a more straight-forward process for the development and operation of both transitional and permanent supportive housing units by quality supportive housing providers. In turn, a vulnerable population that is generally homeless or at risk of homelessness and who has mental health conditions or other disabilities will have the opportunity to benefit from safe and affordable housing and services that will assist them to live independently.

The Housing Division worked with the City in subcommittee meetings to assist in providing recommendations. Milwaukee County has been proud to partner with the City of Milwaukee on the creation of the Commission on Supportive Housing and we look forward to continued intergovernmental cooperation. We look forward to playing an active role to ensure current and future supportive housing developments meet the quality standards our community expects.

The Milwaukee County fully supports the proposed zoning ordinance changes. We urge you as a member of the Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee to also approve the proposed zoning regulations. We believe that these regulations are an excellent step forward in helping to provide safe and supportive environments that people can call home – and in fulfilling the goals endorsed by the Common Council.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 414-257-7689.

Sincerely,

James Mathy  
Special Needs Housing Manager  
Milwaukee County Housing Division  
9201 Watertown Plank Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53226