

THE RITCHELSON COMPANIES

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July 21, 2019

Dear President Hamilton and Members of the Milwaukee Common Council:

This letter is regarding Griselda Aldrete, nominee for confirmation as Executive Director of the Fire and Police Commission (FPC).

Passion with Purpose

Griselda Aldrete has studied and continues to study, observe and analyze the criminal justice system and its often-times inequitable applications, especially within communities of color. She has taught college-level courses on this issue. She earned her law degree to gain further skills to someday execute her purpose in a city she is passionate about.

Having the passion with the purpose of making a difference in all Milwaukee communities is one way to describe Ms. Aldrete.

Honest and Honorable

These two qualities also describe Ms. Aldrete. This assessment is based on my previous position as Special Assistant to the President, UMOS and 20+ years with the Milwaukee community, and Ms. Aldrete's position as Director of Corporate and Community Events with UMOS.

I observed Ms. Aldrete to be honest and honorable as she engaged diverse communities around common interests to achieve common goals. This diverse engagement was a result of careful listening and a thorough understanding of specific issues within specific communities. Ms. Aldrete is comfortable in navigating through various circles and communities; from neighborhood and community organizers to C-suite corporate executives. This is an essential skill for the executive director of the FPC.

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Independence in Decision Making

I have always known Ms. Aldrete to make decisions focused on “doing the right thing.” However, the Common Council should also be confident that those decisions will be based on the law, data, community needs based on community input, policies and practices of the FPC, as well as input and goal-oriented direction from the Milwaukee Common Council.

In addition to decisions within her authority, compiling data and pertinent information to present to the Fire and Police Commissioners, the Milwaukee Common Council, the Mayor’s office and other decision makers will be a key role of the executive director. I have continued to observe Ms. Aldrete over the years as she handles similar responsibilities in her current position as President and Chief Executive Officer of HPGM.

Communications and Collaborations

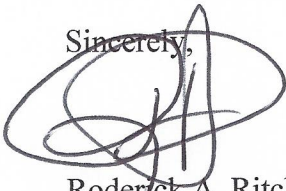
Ms. Aldrete is a skilled communicator and collaborator. Careful and on-going communications that educate the public on the role of the FPC will be a key to establishing trust and confidence. Establishing a collaborative culture within the FPC with the community is another key to building and enhancing relationships. Ms. Aldrete is skilled at both.

In closing, the job of executive director and the responsibilities of the FPC are extremely important within the City of Milwaukee and support will be needed from the Milwaukee Common Council.

I strongly support Ms. Aldrete from a personal and professional perspective, and I strongly urge you as members of the Milwaukee Common Council to support Griselda Aldrete’s nomination and confirmation as the next executive director of the FPC.

If you wish to discuss this information further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Ritcherson", enclosed within a large, loopy circular scribble.

Roderick A. Ritcherson
President