



July 6, 2024

Common Council President Perez
City Hall
Milwaukee WI 53202

Dear President Perez:

I am writing to express strong support for Karen Gotzler appointment to the Board of Commissioners of Housing Authority. Ms. Gotzler and I have worked together in many capacities over the past 20 years, starting with my work at Lison Avenue Neighborhood Development (LAND) back in 2000.

I have been Executive Director of Riverworks Development Corporation since 2003. Ms. Gotzler consulted on a number of initiatives with various funders on the Harambee Great Neighborhood Initiative (HGNI) which we were the lead agency on the project. Later, Ms. Gotzler and her organization, Urban Strategies, conducted research and collected data for national LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corporation) work headquartered in New York to document the success of our work related to HGNI.

While at Urban Satrgeis, Ms. Gotzler and her team also provided guidance, technical assistance and oversight for the start-up of our Financial Opportunity Center for the first few years; which is now the Financial Clinic that operates and manages the Financial Empowerment Center for the City of Milwaukee.

Recently, we re-connected again when Ms. Gotzler (volunteer finance manager for Victory Garden Initiative on Concordia and Richards in Harambee) introduced me to the new Executive Director of VGI for possible partnerships.

Ms. Gotzler is a skilled facilitator, trainer and advisor to nonprofit groups, especially in the areas of community development, housing and small business development. Ms. Gotzler has a strong understanding of financial performance and a keen eye for program improvement and an unwavering commitment to the community. I urge you to confirm Karen Gotzler as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority for the City of Milwaukee, I feel that Ms. Gotzler will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have about my support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darryl Johnson". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a large, faint, light-gray watermark of the Riverworks Development Corporation logo.

Darryl Johnson
Executive Director

Riverworks Development Corporation

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