

Lee, Chris

From: h giese <hgiese@ameritech.net>
Sent: Monday, June 3, 2024 5:58 PM
To: jonathon.brostoff@milwaukee.gov
Cc: Lee, Chris
Subject: File No. 231406 County and Cities Housing Committee
Attachments: AASEW Eviction Study Dec 2019.pdf; AASEW Eviction study Dec. 2019 - Exec summary.pdf

To: Alderman Jonathon Brostoff

Chair, Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee

Dear Chairperson Brostoff:

I am the lobbyist for the Rental Property Association of Wisconsin, Inc. (RPA) Most of our over 700 members are providers of rental housing in the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County.

File No. 231406 concerns the City's participation in the proposed County and Cities Housing Committee which was created by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors through an ordinance (File No. 24-252).

On the whole, our organization supports the concept of creating this joint government/citizen advisory committee. The RPA has been an active participant in Milwaukee's Rental Housing Resource Center which has tenant advocates, social welfare agencies such as Community Advocates and landlords who cooperate on issues involving rental assistance and mediation as an alternative to eviction. I am attaching to this email our highly detailed eviction study published in March, 2022.

There are several problems with the proposed structure of the joint Housing Committee. First, the nine ex officio members specified in section 46.14 of the County ordinance do not include anyone from the private housing provider field such as landlords, developers or Realtors. There are three non-governmental ex officio members. At least one of these should be a representative of private market housing providers.

Second, section 46.15(3) of the County ordinance requires that "no more than one" of the 12 community appointees can be a landlord or advocate for landlords or a real estate developer. This is a shortsighted and ineffective restriction. For example, to combat homelessness you need input from developers and landlords to figure out how to provide and encourage the availability of housing for this at-risk population.

A stated goal for this joint Housing Committee in the County Resolution/Ordinance is "*to assist the County and other local entities in making more effective and equitable decisions related to housing issues*" (lines 41-43). To accomplish that goal there should

be at least one ex officio member from the housing provider field and at least two designated housing providers among the 12 community members.

We respectfully request that this Common Council Resolution be amended to make those changes.

Atty Heiner Giese

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