



Department of Human Resources

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May 31, 2024

City of Milwaukee Common Council
200 East Wells Street, Room 301
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Honorable Members of the Common Council,

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic support for the appointment of Paulina Gutiérrez as the Executive Director for the City of Milwaukee Elections Commission.

I have had the privilege of knowing Paulina since 2019 when she served as the Legislative Advisor for the State of Wisconsin Department of Corrections, while I held the position of Administrator for the Division of Adult Institutions. Over the course of two years, I had the opportunity to work closely with her and witnessed firsthand her exceptional ability to tackle complex challenges, approach them with a solution-oriented mindset, and lead with unwavering integrity and professionalism. Throughout her tenure, Paulina consistently ensured that the organization's mission remained paramount in all her endeavors. She adeptly conducted thorough research, addressed operational and policy deficiencies, and cultivated strong relationships that contributed significantly to her effectiveness in her role.

Paulina played a pivotal role in leveraging her relationships to overcome barriers hindering the department's progress towards its goals and mission. She collaborated with elected officials, engaged with public and community leaders, and forged partnerships with stakeholders to navigate complex issues and drive meaningful change. Her commitment to finding practical solutions, coupled with her meticulous organization and tireless advocacy for the constituents of the city, exemplify her dedication to serving the city's best interests.

I wholeheartedly endorse Paulina for this critical role and have full confidence in her ability to be successful. Her extensive experience working for mission-led organizations, coupled with her tenure as the Deputy Director of the Milwaukee Election Commission, uniquely qualifies her for the position of Executive Director. I strongly believe her leadership will propel the Commission to new heights of excellence.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "Makda Fessahaye", written in a cursive style.

Makda Fessahaye