



July 12, 2025

To:
Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee
City of Milwaukee

Board of Directors

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Dear Chair and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative (CSNI), we write to express our strong support for Legistar File #240402, the Housing Element update to Milwaukee's Comprehensive Plan. This plan addresses key community needs and aligns with our vision for equitable, inclusive development.

Neighborhood Context & Density:

Clarke Square is one of the city's densest neighborhoods, with approximately 7,200–7,500 residents in just 0.37 square miles—over 19,000 people per square mile, more than three times the Milwaukee average. Around 76% of residents are Hispanic/Latino, and the area is home to many immigrant families. Most households are renter-occupied (about 85%), with only 15% homeownership. The average household size of ~2.5 reflects the prevalence of multi-generational arrangements.

Why the Housing Element Matters:

With its high-density, youth-driven demographics, and predominantly renter-based housing market, Clarke Square depends on flexible, affordable, and culturally relevant housing solutions. The Housing Element's policies—expanding ADUs, duplexes, triplexes, easing conversions, and focusing on design standards—are well-suited to meet these needs.

Supporting Immigrant Families:

Clarke Square has historically served as a landing place for immigrant communities, particularly Hispanic/Latino newcomers. The proposed zoning changes enable immigrant households to secure legal, safe, and affordable housing options, such as ADUs or small multi-unit homes.



These tools support long-term family stability and uphold neighborhood cohesiveness.

Conclusion & Request:

Given our community's density, family structures, and immigrant heritage, the Housing Element represents a critical step toward preserving affordability, supporting generational housing, and honoring neighborhood character. We strongly urge the ZND Committee to approve File #240402.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Kuschel".

Kevin Kuschel
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eduardo E. Castro".

Eduardo Castro
President, Board of Directors
Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative