

Lee, Chris

From: Burgelis, Peter
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 9:40 AM
To: Lee, Chris
Subject: Fwd: Support for the State of Our Community Forum: Protecting Trans Lives



Peter Burgelis (*he/him*) | Alderman District 11
City of Milwaukee Common Council
200 E Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Office 414-286-3768
Legislative Aide [Sherry Prochaska](#)

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Burgelis, Peter" <Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov>
Date: March 17, 2025 at 2:09:00 PM CDT
To: Sevyn Lockett <aubureyjay@gmail.com>
Cc: Matt Hogans <mhogans@blackpridemke.org>, "Zamarripa, JoCasta" <JoCasta@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: RE: Support for the State of Our Community Forum: Protecting Trans Lives

Sevyn, Excellent letter- thank you! -Peter



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From: Sevyn Lockett <aubureyjay@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:30 PM
To: Dimitrijevic, Marina <Marina@milwaukee.gov>; Coggs, Milele <mcoggs@milwaukee.gov>; Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>; Moore, Sharlen <Sharlen.Moore@milwaukee.gov>; Burgelis, Peter <Peter.Burgelis@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Support for the State of Our Community Forum: Protecting Trans Lives

Dear Elected Officials,

I'm reaching out as a **Black trans woman and community activist** to express my strong support for the **State of Our Community Forum: Protecting Trans Lives** and to emphasize why this event is critical for **all Black trans individuals** in Milwaukee.

Black trans people—especially Black trans femmes—face **disproportionate violence, systemic neglect, and daily barriers to safety, housing, healthcare, and economic stability**. Too often, we are left out of conversations about our own survival. This forum ensures that our voices are centered, our experiences are acknowledged, and our needs directly inform the policies and protections meant to serve us.

Why This Forum Matters for Black Trans Lives

1. **Centering Black Trans Voices:** We must define what safety, support, and advocacy mean for ourselves, rather than having others speak on our behalf.
2. **Addressing Gaps in Support:** Many existing advocacy efforts fail Black trans people because they don't address our lived realities, including:
 1. The urgent need for safe and stable housing.
 2. Barriers to meaningful employment opportunities.
 3. Discrimination in healthcare settings.
 4. The lack of protection from violence—both in our communities and from law enforcement.
3. **Engaging Policymakers:** Milwaukee's leaders must move beyond performative allyship and commit to real policy changes that address the injustices Black trans people face.
4. **Increasing Community Safety:** This conversation must go beyond self-defense and include real safety measures like community-led intervention programs, emergency housing, and financial support to prevent economic instability.
5. **Ensuring Safe Participation:** This event prioritizes security because we know that **Black trans voices speaking out come with real risks**. The measures in place set a precedent for how trans-centered events should be structured moving forward.

How You Can Support Us

I'm asking you to **stand with us** by using your platform to amplify this event, attending if possible, and urging other elected officials and leaders to listen, learn, and commit to action. **The safety and survival of Black trans people in Milwaukee depend on real change**. This forum is a crucial step toward making that happen.

Thank you for your time, your solidarity, and your action.

Best,

Sevyn Lockett
Community Activist

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Sevyn Lockett
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