



July 14, 2016

The Honorable Ashanti Hamilton
President of the Common Council
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202-3570

Re: Confirmation of Rocky Marcoux as Commissioner of DCD

Dear President Hamilton:

On behalf of the GMC, we strongly support and urge the reappointment of Rocky Marcoux as the Commissioner of the Department of City Development, City of Milwaukee. We have worked closely with Commissioner Marcoux and Mayor Barrett over the years on the successful development of the Water Council, the Global Water Center and the Reed Street Yards.

Most recently, Commissioner Marcoux has been instrumental in our work with the Riverworks Development Corporation to bring close to a million dollars in Kresge and Artplace America funding to the Harambee and Riverwest communities. These funds have brought together two communities along an economic spine called the Beerline Trail Extension to develop infrastructure for economic growth. The work includes entrepreneurial development, community discussions, visual and performance art, small business expansion and job creation, planned creative enterprise housing and the beginning of a new urban park along the trail developed with significant resident input. The city invested over a million dollars in the development of the bike trail extension over the past year.

Mayor Barrett and Commissioner Marcoux are essential leaders and partners with the Greater Milwaukee Committee, the Milwaukee Urban League and the Greater Milwaukee Foundation in the development of the MKE United Greater Downtown Action Agenda. MKE United is a comprehensive planning process through which we will create a shared and inclusive vision for Downtown Milwaukee and its adjacent neighborhoods, supported by a strategic Action Agenda to make that vision a reality. While the growth downtown is creating tremendous new opportunities for our city, we believe more needs to be done to leverage these developments to benefit the neighborhoods adjacent to downtown. Early opportunities include developing a plan to create CDFI financial alignment and growth in the commercial corridors in the adjacent neighborhoods to accelerate small business relocation and growth and job creation.

The time is now to grow the prosperity of our city through civic engagement and partnerships. This is not the time for a change in leadership in the DCD Commissioner's office and disruption in leadership and progress.

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We strongly encourage the Common Council to reconfirm the reappointment of Rocky Marcoux as DCD Commissioner without delay.

Sincerely,



Ted Kellner,
Board Chairman
Greater Milwaukee Committee



Julia Taylor
President
Greater Milwaukee Committee

CC: Common Council
Commissioner Rocky Marcoux