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November 3, 2022

Dear City of Milwaukee Common Council, Steering and Rules Committee:

This is a letter of support for the continued charter authorization of the Milwaukee Academy of Science (MAS) by the City of Milwaukee's Common Council Steering and Rules Committee.

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee have been operating a 21st Century Community Learning Center afterschool program at MAS for over 3 years now. We are thrilled to report that among our nearly 40 Community Learning Center school-based partnership sites, MAS quickly proved to be one of our strongest partners. There is strong synergy between day school and afterschool educational enrichment activities and great connectivity of our mutual staff. Furthermore, we have expanded our partnership to include the Harley Davidson STEM Lab nearly 3 years ago. This is a state of the art space for our partnership to engage students across the grade spectrum to science, technology, engineering, and math concepts and careers. We intend for MAS to be a part of the Boys & Girls Clubs family for many years to come.

As a foundation representative, I take great responsibility in looking for sound investments in the community to take back to my Board of Directors. MAS is one of those sound investments. The Board and I believe that MAS is offering an excellent educational opportunity for the students in Milwaukee. The school is not selective, and therefore open to all students. The school also provides the stability of a K-12 school experience. Continued support of a school like MAS has, and will continue, to lead to more Black students in the City of Milwaukee to graduation, being accepted into college, and being prepared to secure quality jobs in the future.

We need more high-quality schools like MAS in Milwaukee. Their sustained growth is possible thanks to the school's excellent student retention efforts, an expansion into empty space in their building, and a strong reputation in the community that has resulted in enrollment growth year after year.

I am in full support of MAS' mission, outcomes, and charter contract renewal. Thank you for your consideration. In supporting Milwaukee Academy of Science, you support the children of Milwaukee and the city's future.

Sincerely,

Kathy Thornton Bias
President & CEO