

**Elmer, Linda**

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**From:** Owczarski, Jim  
**Sent:** Monday, June 26, 2023 10:57 AM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** FW: Support for Proposed Local Sales Tax: Securing the Future of Milwaukee

For the file.

Jim

**From:** Tony Snell <tonysnellmke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 25, 2023 5:34 PM  
**To:** Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>; Borkowski, Mark <Mark.Borkowski@milwaukee.gov>; Coggs, Milele <mcoggs@milwaukee.gov>; Dimitrijevic, Marina <Marina@milwaukee.gov>; Murphy, Michael (Alderman) <mmurph@milwaukee.gov>; Perez, Jose <JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov>; Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>; Stamper II, Russell <Russell.StamperII@milwaukee.gov>  
**Cc:** Owczarski, Jim <jowcza@milwaukee.gov>; Mayor <mayor@milwaukee.gov>  
**Subject:** Support for Proposed Local Sales Tax: Securing the Future of Milwaukee

Dear Steering Committee Members,

I request your support for the proposed 2% local sales tax and to emphasize the critical need for a timely vote by the Common Council.

As a proud resident of the City of Milwaukee, I share your passion for the well-being of our community. It is imperative that we address the current heavy reliance on property taxes for our city's budget. The introduction of an additional sales tax would establish a fairer system by generating revenue from individuals who do not live here and benefit from our city's services and assets, such as visitors, convention attendees, and those who enjoy sporting events and other activities. By doing so, we can help alleviate the burden on property owners who have shouldered the majority of the costs thus far.

The proposed sales tax is not only crucial for our city's financial stability but also for maintaining the quality of life we cherish. Adequate funding for our fire department, police department, and library system is vital to ensure safety, security, and educational opportunities for all residents. We need well-maintained roads and streetlights to enhance the overall infrastructure of our city. Furthermore, it is essential that we have the opportunity to make forward-thinking investments rather than constantly facing budget cuts year after year.

In considering this proposal, it is essential to recognize that the most vulnerable people in our city would greatly benefit from the sales tax and are disproportionately impacted by budget cuts. These individuals rely on the services and programs provided by the city, such as healthcare services, reliable infrastructure, and affordable and supportive housing. Budget cuts often result in reduced access to vital resources for those who

need them the most, exacerbating the inequalities they already face. By adopting the sales tax, we can ensure that these essential services are adequately funded. It is our moral duty to prioritize the well-being of those who are most affected by cuts and ensure they receive the necessary services to thrive in our city.

Time is of the essence in this matter. If the Common Council fails to adopt the sales tax before the summer recess, we stand to lose out on tens of millions of dollars. The longer we delay, the more significant the financial losses become. Just a month and a half of delay would equate to the loss of funds equivalent to the entire funding for our library system or the salaries of hundreds of dedicated police officers and firefighters. It would be a great loss not to use these significant resources that our city desperately needs to maintain essential services.

We have a unique opportunity to secure the future of our beloved city. So, I would like to ask that you cast your vote in favor of the sales tax and support the prompt scheduling of the vote. We cannot afford to waste any time if we are to seize this opportunity and ensure the prosperity of Milwaukee.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. Together, let us work towards building a brighter future for our city and its residents.

Sincerely,

Tony Snell Rodríguez  
1660 N Prospect Ave  
Milwaukee, WI 53202