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February 12, 2019

TO: Alderman Robert G. Donovan
Chair, Public Safety and Health Committee

Alderman Terry L. Witkowski
Vice-Chair, Public Safety and Health Committee

Members: Public Safety and Health Committee
Alderman Mark A. Borkowski
Alderwoman Chantia Lewis
Alderman Jose G. Perez

RE: **Agenda Item Number 11: 180738**
Reappointment of Chief Judge Maxine Aldridge White (as Judicial Representative) to the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, by the Common Council President

Good afternoon Chairman Donovan,

On February 6, 2019, I received an invitation providing the opportunity for me to appear before the Public Safety and Health Committee to discuss reappointment to the Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. The Commission is meeting this Thursday, February 14, 2019 at 9:00 AM. Please accept this letter as my request for reappointment so I can continue as a Commissioner with the City of Milwaukee's Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Regrettably, I am unable to attend the meeting due to previously scheduled commitments.

The City of Milwaukee's Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault has been in existence since 1979. It is the longest standing Commission of its kind in the country. It is dedicated to improving the community's response to sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking. It is made up of over three dozen community members, some appointed by the Mayor, some by the Common Council and some like myself are designated by position.


With the leadership and guidance of Mr. Reggie Moore and his team, the Commission's reach has expanded deeper into the root causes of family and community turbulence including deeply entrenched trauma, poverty and neglect, addiction, mental illness and systemic racial and other disparities. Mr. Moore is leading us to develop more affirmative and intentional leadership styles and to deliver actions to directly address these significant seemingly cosmic-sized challenges with specificity. As Chief Judge and chief administrator for all of the Courts located in Milwaukee County, I

am honored to serve with this team of dedicated professionals and servant leaders to develop capacities to make this a safer community for us all.

In the eight years prior to being appointed Chief Judge by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, I served as Deputy Chief Judge for 7 years and as the Judiciary's representative on a project led by the Commission. It was during those years that I learned the true strength and grit of the Commission. Working with Mayor Tom Barrett's Commission Executives, the U.S. Justice Department, Sojourner Truth Peace Center and Children's Hospital, we succeeded in bringing an important asset to our community – the Milwaukee Visitation Center, a safe haven visitation center for families experiencing family violence. The Center opened on October 16, 2014.

As the Chief Judge I have continued our history of working alongside and supporting the work of the Commission. Most recently in the first eight days in January 2019, this same team - in addition to some new partners – led by strong leadership from the Commission – wrote strategically and expertly about the Center in support of gaining additional grant funding to support its continuing operation. The Center is but one demonstrative example of the importance of the Commission and its work and the power of our collaboration. I believe that the actual and future accomplishments of the Commission have been and will continue to be even more transformative for our community. One of my key functions as Chief Judge is to be the voice of the judiciary. As such I pledge to continue to provide information about how the legal system works and to be an integral part in any proposed changes for how our legal system responds to these types of cases and causes. I look forward to ensuring that the Court's leadership role in this joint endeavor continues.

Sincerely,



Honorable Maxine Aldridge White

CC: Reggie Moore, Director, City of Milwaukee Health Department,
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