



Department of Administration

**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor

**Sharon Robinson**  
Director of Administration

July 19, 2021

The Honorable Cavalier Johnson, President  
Common Council, City of Milwaukee

The Honorable Michael Murphy, Chairman  
Finance & Personnel Committee  
Common Council, City of Milwaukee

Dear Council President Johnson and Finance & Personnel Committee Chairman Murphy:

I am writing to formally request that you advance the Mayor's Milwaukee Recovery and Resilience Plan prepared with support from the Department of Administration (DOA). The plan addresses real life concerns and community needs that cannot wait. It is Black, Brown and other people who are historically underserved, marginalized and impacted by poverty and inequality who will mostly gain.

The plan includes input from our American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act resident survey tool. Racial equity considerations have been incorporated to an unprecedented extent. Additionally, we have carefully listened to recommendations and suggestions – both formal and informal – from Council members. Furthermore, we have asked important questions to assess whether a proposed project is practical, sustainable, effective, and a priority. And, rather than budgeting every dollar we anticipate receiving, we have reserved a significant portion of the funds to allocate going forward – based on identified needs, capacity to implement programs, and additional input from residents and elected officials.

The scale of this effort has been enormous – and not simply the amount of money involved. All major departments offered recommendations. At every step, we made sure we were following the rules promulgated by the federal government. There was no template provided to work from, either in process or in establishing priorities. We had to build processes as we moved forward by balancing key priorities and focusing on issues that continue to vex our city. The plan we have presented brings together multiple approaches in a coordinated way. That makes sense for our residents, and it maximizes the positive benefits the ARP can produce for Milwaukee. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you to enhance our process including as it pertains to coordinating future requests from the Common Council.

Lastly, for me, this request is a matter of the heart and I am very proud of the efforts of my team at DOA. There is nothing more important than improving the lives of people and our community. I, therefore, humbly ask that you respond favorably on behalf of the residents we are honored to serve and especially those hardest hit by COVID-19.

Sincerely,  
  
Sharon Robinson