



November 11, 2024

City of Milwaukee  
809 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Attn:

Chair Stephanie Bloomingdale, City Plan Commission  
Vice Chair Russell Stamper, Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development  
Chair Eric Lowenberg, Board of Zoning Appeals  
President Jose G. Perez, Common Council

Dear Chair Bloomingdale, Alderman Stamper, Chair Lowenberg, President Perez, and Members:

I am writing to express my support of Kinship Community Food Center's (Kinship) application for a zoning change and special use permit for their proposed project at 421 E. Locust Street. Kinship has proven to be an outstanding neighbor and tenant, demonstrating an exceptional commitment to the community.

Kinship (FKA Riverwest Food Pantry) has been tenants of ours since 2018 and we've shared space in a facility at 2625 N. Weil Street for many years prior to that, during which time I have witnessed firsthand the essential role they play in strengthening and uplifting our community. Kinship has creatively risen to meet our community's critical needs over the past several years and has fostered a strong and collaborative partnership with us, consistently demonstrating clear communication and a commitment to mutual success.

In my prior role as Director of Operations, I had the opportunity to work closely with Kinship's staff and observe their exceptional commitment to the dignity and safety of our individual and shared clients as well as our Riverwest neighbors. They've consistently demonstrated a commitment to the maintenance of our shared property and the surrounding area.

I have greatly appreciated Kinship's clear communication and transparency, particularly in coordinating around challenging schedules and in maintaining a clean, respectful environment accessible to all. Kinship's thorough attention to both the interior and exterior areas of their facility reflects their respect and consideration for the community at large.

In my 11 years with Meta House, I've always known Kinship Community Food Center to be a cornerstone in the densely populated Riverwest neighborhood. Their proposed move to the intersection of the Riverwest and Harambee neighborhoods represents an opportunity to further uplift and support the

surrounding community. I commend them for their expansion efforts and encourage the Board of Zoning Appeals to approve these requests, as it is an essential step toward addressing critical issues of hunger, isolation, and poverty in our city.

In conclusion, I respectfully request your favorable consideration to Kinship's application for a zoning change and special use permit. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SK', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sarah Koehn

Director of Philanthropy & Marketing