



March 23, 2026

City of Milwaukee Common Council
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Members of the Common Council,

I write in support of the confirmation of Karin Tyler as Director of the Milwaukee Department of Community Safety and Wellness.

In my role as Director of the National Offices of Violence Prevention Network (NOVPN) at the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR), I work alongside leaders across the country who are responsible for advancing public health-centered approaches to violence reduction. Milwaukee is an active member of this national network, and the leadership of its Department of Community Safety and Wellness is both locally significant and nationally relevant.

Karin Tyler represents the kind of leadership this moment calls for. Leadership grounded in deep experience and a clear understanding of how violence reduction strategies need to be implemented on the ground. A Milwaukee native with more than two decades of experience serving communities most impacted by violence, and over a decade working within the City's violence reduction infrastructure, she brings both professional expertise and lived understanding to this work.

Her leadership is shaped not only by her years of service, but by personal experience with the impact of violence. Because of this, she brings a level of urgency, empathy, and accountability that is essential in this field. Just as importantly, Karin understands Milwaukee. She understands its neighborhoods, its history, and the systems that must work together to advance community safety and wellness.

The Department of Community Safety and Wellness has evolved into a multidisciplinary hub responsible for coordinating responses to gun violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, and broader public safety challenges. At the same time, the department has experienced multiple leadership transitions in recent years, making this a critical moment to both stabilize and strengthen the infrastructure that supports this work.

Milwaukee isn't alone in this. Across the country, cities are moving from programmatic approaches to more fully aligned, cross-system strategies. This is complex work that requires strong coordination across agencies, community-based organizations, and public leadership. And it is work that is best done in partnership.

Karin has demonstrated a willingness to lead with humility and openness. These are qualities that are essential in roles of this complexity. She understands both the urgency of the work and the importance of building the systems and partnerships necessary to sustain it over time. Her current service as interim director reflects a commitment to ensuring that the City's violence reduction efforts remain steady during a period of transition.



From a national perspective, sustained progress in reducing violence is most often achieved when cities align policy, practice, and people over time. When it's grounded in stable leadership, clear strategy, and strong partnerships.

NOVPN stands ready to support that work in Milwaukee.

Should Karin Tyler be confirmed, I am committed - both personally and on behalf of NOVPN and NICJR - to working closely with her and the City of Milwaukee to support the development and implementation of a comprehensive, data-informed, and community-centered violence reduction strategic plan. This includes strengthening cross-agency coordination, aligning community-based and governmental efforts, and building the systems infrastructure necessary for long-term impact.

Milwaukee has strong foundational assets, committed partners, and a history of innovation in this space. With aligned leadership and intentional strategy, this is a moment to build on that foundation and move toward a more cohesive, sustainable approach to community safety. Karin Tyler is well positioned to lead Milwaukee into this next phase with the partnership, alignment, and support that this work requires.

For these reasons, I support her confirmation and look forward to working alongside her and your broader leadership to advance a safer, healthier Milwaukee.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if I can be of support.

In community,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sharitay Jackson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Sharitay Jackson
Director, National Offices of Violence Prevention Network (NOVPN)
National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR)