

July 2, 2004

To The Honorable
Common Council of the City of Milwaukee
City Hall, Room 205

Dear Common Council Members:

I am writing to express the support of the Department of City Development for File No. 040229, which is currently in Finance and Personnel Committee awaiting consideration.

This resolution authorizes the execution of a one-year, renewable cooperation agreement between the City of Milwaukee and the University of Wisconsin. The result of the agreement is that Robert Greenstreet, interim chancellor and dean of the School of Architecture and Urban Planning, will direct planning and design services within DCD. This arrangement has parallels to a partnership between the City of Milwaukee and the Medical College of Wisconsin that, some years ago, resulted in an MCW physician serving as medical director at the Milwaukee Health Department.

The agreement calls for the City to "buy out" a portion of Dr. Greenstreet's contract with the university. Dr. Greenstreet will remain a UWM employee. However, as the result of the buyout, his responsibilities at the university will be reduced. The City will pay UWM up to \$95,000 over the one-year term of the proposed agreement.

Right now, Dr. Greenstreet is concluding a year of stewardship of UWM as interim chancellor. He will return to his role as dean of the architecture school in mid-July. As dean, he has developed approaches that directly involve students in solving neighborhood design problems. In recent years, he has served on the Milwaukee City Plan Commission and is currently its chairman. (He would, of course, resign from the CPC if the agreement were approved.)

When discussing this arrangement with both members of the Common Council and DCD staff, I have heard one key concern: will things "fall through the cracks" because Dr. Greenstreet is handling two roles? I am committed to ensuring that the day-to-day business of planning and design will not suffer. Dr. Greenstreet will be in his DCD office each day, for about five hours a day. He will be available by phone, fax and e-mail when not in the office. Also, John Hyslop, who has served as acting planning director since Peter Park's resignation in December 2003, has agreed to take on the role of assistant planning director during the term of this cooperation agreement. I am

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confident that Mr. Hyslop and Dr. Greenstreet will form a powerful team to lead our city's planning and design initiatives.

It is rare that a municipal government has the opportunity to add an individual of Robert Greenstreet's credentials to its team. The arrangement further provides a unique opportunity to bring the resources of UWM to bear on City initiatives. I urge you to adopt this resolution.

Dr. Greenstreet and I will attend the Finance and Personnel Committee meeting to respond to any questions you have regarding this proposal. If you would like to discuss any issues prior to the meeting, please call me at extension 5810.

Sincerely,

Martha L. Brown
Acting Commissioner