



January 10, 2021

Ranell Washington  
Co-Founder/Vice President  
Milwaukee, WI

RE: Makda Fessahaye – Confirmation as Director of Employee Relations

Dear Common Council members,

I am submitting this letter in support of the appointment of Makda Fessahaye as the Director of Employee Relations. I had the pleasure of meeting Ms. Fessahaye as she was completing her Juris Doctor from Marquette University Law School in 2013. During the eight years that we have been acquainted, Ms. Fessahaye has been committed to service in the Milwaukee community, and has thrived in her community and professional endeavors. As a Milwaukee native, she has invested countless hours throughout her career for organizations like WAAL (Wisconsin Association of African American Lawyers) serving as the immediate past-president, co-founded a networking organization called Brunch of Professionals, served as an active member of the Greater Madison and Milwaukee Urban League Young Professionals, most recently on the MULYP scholarship selection committee, as a member of the Marquette University Law School Diversity Recruitment Committee and others to name a few.

Her most recent professional position as the Administrator for the Wisconsin Department of Corrections' Division of Adult Institutions, in addition to her previous roles I believe prepared her to serve the staff and elected officials of the City of Milwaukee. As a dedicated servant-leader, she has been celebrated most recently by Madison365 being named to the 2020 Black Power List with Common Council President, Alderman Cavalier Johnson and Alderwoman Milele Coggs. In 2019, she was named Dominican High School's Young Alumni of the Year, named by the Wisconsin Law Journal as one of 2019's Up and Coming Lawyers and a host of other recognitions.

My hope is that the Common Council recognizes and supports the endorsement of Ms. Fessahaye and recognizes that she is a talented professional that will add value to the Mayor's cabinet with her expert competencies, willingness to collaborate, and sound decisioning making for employees and those she will impact in this role. I have no doubt her ability managing staff and leading the department into the future will be a successful effort.

If there are any questions, feel free to contact me at [ranell@socialxmke.com](mailto:ranell@socialxmke.com).

I hope each of you has an amazing 2021!

Be safe and be well,

Ranell Washington  
Co-Founder/Vice President  
Social X MKE, LLC