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January 8, 2021

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SENT BY E-MAIL

City of Milwaukee Common Council  
c/o Jim Owczarski, Common Council City Clerk  
jowcza@milwaukee.gov  
200 E. Wells Street  
Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Common Council Members:

I write to express my unqualified support for the appointment of Makda Fessahaye as the City of Milwaukee's Director of Employee Relations. Ms. Fessahaye is uniquely qualified for this position based on her education, work experience and outstanding record as an administrator and counselor in the public sector.

I have known Ms. Fessahaye since her graduation from law school. During that time I have witnessed her remarkable work ethic, intellect and integrity. She has earned the high regard of her colleagues in the legal profession and has built a reputation as a consensus builder and decisive leader.

Ms. Fessahaye is particularly suited to serve as Milwaukee's chief human resource officer and her extensive work experience, all of which relates to the position, will ensure she "hits the ground running" with respect to the relevant legal standards, policies and all matters pertaining to employee relations matters. Even her experiences while still in law school established the foundation for her work in this field. At that time, she served as an employee benefits research assistant and as a law clerk with the Office of Human Resources in the Milwaukee public school system where she investigated employment discrimination related claims. Upon graduating from law school she continued working in the area as a dedicated public servant. She has been an employee relations specialist, an in-house attorney for the Office of Legal Counsel with the Department of Corrections, and most recently has served as Administrator of the Division of Adult Institutions for the State Department of Corrections. Importantly, she has discharged her duties admirably with respect to all these positions and has navigated difficult political and legal challenges presented by these positions.

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In conclusion, please accept my support and recommendation for Ms. Fessahaye's appointment to the City of Milwaukee's Director of Employee Relations position. I am confident she will exceed the expectations of the Common Council and will faithfully and diligently discharge her duties in the service of our community. Should you have any questions concerning Ms. Fessahaye I am happy to address those at any time.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Cameli', written in a cursive style.

Mark A. Cameli

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