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To Steering Rules Committee:

On behalf of the City of Milwaukee - **Charter School Review Committee (CSRC)**, this letter is in support of recommending a five-year renewal contract for **Milwaukee Academy of Science, Central City Charter School, and Downtown Montessori**. In 1998, the City of Milwaukee Common authorized its first charter school. During the 2021-22 school term, the City operated seven schools. In the fall of 2012, after a three-year pilot, the CSRC adopted its first school scorecard. In 2020, the CSRC formally adopted an updated scorecard to help the CSRC monitor each charter school's performance, based on each school's individual multiple measures of their students' academic progress as well as, their financial stability annually. These multiple measures include the following: Performance on standardize tests and local measures; Point-in-time academic achievement; Family and student engagement; Attendance; Student retention and return rates; and Teacher retention and return rates. Additionally, the CSRC adopted a Financial Scorecard which rates the financial condition, financial reporting & contract compliance, internal controls, and sustainability.

**Milwaukee Academy of Science** (*grades K4-12<sup>th</sup>*) is in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operations under the authorization of the City of Milwaukee. MAS was established in the year 2000 at the beginning of the charter school movement and was previously authorized my UWM. MAS, which is the largest school (*1370 students*) in our portfolio continues to hold steadfast to its mission "*The mission of Milwaukee Academy of Science, an exemplary leader in STEM education, is to graduate urban students prepared to compete successfully at the postsecondary level*". This year, the board had 21 members who represent the institutions of higher learning that contributed to the creation of the consortium (Medical College of Wisconsin, Cardinal Stritch University, Marquette University, and Milwaukee School of Engineering).

Under the leadership of Anthony McHenry, MAS continues to improve in their educational outcomes (77.3% score) and sports program. They were awarded an expansion grant from DPI in 2020 and have added new classrooms, a new gym, and a state-of-the-art athletic center. Additionally, MAS class of 2022 set a record of \$10.2 million in scholarships and for the 8<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, 100% of their seniors have

college acceptances. Based on the school's status as a 14th-year school, its contract compliance status, and its scorecard rating, CSRC with the assistance of the Evident Change, recommends that Milwaukee Academy of Science be awarded another five-year contract with the City of Milwaukee as a charter school.

**Central City Cyberschool (K-12)**, in its 24<sup>th</sup> year of operations is a long-standing city charter and is one of the first schools in the city to have a technology focus. Located in the Parklawn public housing development, C3 has recently expanded to include high school and continues to make a positive impact on the neighboring community. With the assistance of a DPI expansion grant in 2018, Cyber High expanded to 9-12<sup>th</sup> grade. The Cyber High program is based on the P-TECH model where students earn a high school diploma and an industry-recognized associate degree and gain relevant work experience in a growing field. In 2020 C3 had a leadership change when Dr. Christine Faltz, the founder retired from her position as the executive Director. Currently Jessica Whitaker is the Executive Director and continues to expand the vision of C3. As one of the oldest schools in our portfolio we feel confident in C3's ability to meet and exceed our expectations. Based on the school's status as a 24th-year school, its contract compliance status, and its scorecard rating, CSRC with the assistance of the Evident Change, recommends that Central City Cyberschool be awarded another five-year contract with the City of Milwaukee as a charter school.

**Downtown Montessori Academy (K-8)**, in its 25<sup>th</sup> year of operations is the only Montessori school in our portfolio. DMA is a small diverse community-focused school serving families since 1978. The school delivers a valid Montessori program as interpreted by the Association Montessori Internationale or the American Montessori Society. Located in Milwaukee's Bay View area, DMA continues to be one of the highest performing schools, based on its scorecard, continually scoring in the Good and High Performing category. Under the leadership of Virginia Flynn, the schools' founder and Head of school, Downtown Montessori provides an exemplary Montessori experience. Based on the school's status as a 25th-year school, its contract compliance status, and its scorecard rating, CSRC with the assistance of the Evident Change, recommends that Downtown Montessori Academy be awarded another five-year contract with the City of Milwaukee as a charter school.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kevin Ingram, Chair  
Charter School Review Committee