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May 29, 2024

Chairperson DiAndre Jackson, Judiciary and Legislation Committee
City of Milwaukee Common Council
200 East Wells Street, Room 301
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Paulina Gutiérrez's Confirmation to the Executive Director Position for the City of Milwaukee Election Commission

Dear Alderperson Jackson:

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the nomination of Paulina Gutierrez for Election Commissioner of the City of Milwaukee. As both a former colleague and community member, I have had the opportunity to see her knowledge, skills, and abilities put to work for the betterment of Milwaukee residents throughout her career, and I have no doubt that she will excel in this pivotal role for the City.

It is often said that in Milwaukee your zip code can determine your path in life. Growing up on the near South Side of Milwaukee, Paulina has experienced the positive and negative sides of the City she knows and loves. Due to this I have always appreciated that, like myself, she has reached success in her career despite growing up in areas of the City where success is an uphill battle. She has had to overcome numerous obstacles, and her path has been non-traditional and nowhere near linear, but she has never taken for granted where she comes from and has always worked to improve the conditions of those in the City that have struggled to see a path toward success. All of her lived experiences, her love for all residents of the City, and her technical skills and abilities will allow her to thrive in the high stress environment that will come with this new role.

Paulina has consistently demonstrated the ability to both serve as a visionary leader and an operational level expert in every role she has held. This has included her role in the Office of Violence Prevention where she worked across sectors to create policy and strategies to address gun violence across the city; her position (in which she succeeded me) as the Legislative Fiscal

Manager for the City, one in which she excelled in lobbying and advocating for issues that affected Milwaukee residents; and her stints in senior leadership at both the Fire and Police Commission and the Wisconsin Department of Justice where she became an advocate for efficient use of resources and for better relationships between law enforcement and the community. At each stop, I have seen how Paulina has been a consistent advocate for change, efficiency, and most importantly, for ensuring the residents of Milwaukee are treated with dignity in an equitable manner.

It is imperative that we continue to support and invest in the Election Commission to ensure that it can maintain and expand its vital service of ensuring our election integrity. Having someone with Paulina's background and ability at the helm of such a crucial role is vitally important for sustaining the progress she started as deputy commission and for addressing any and all future challenges that will arise in the department, including those with the upcoming presidential election..

Paulina has been a trusted voice of guidance and support that I have leaned on for advice during my time at the City, MPS, and in nonprofit leadership. For these reasons and more, I wholeheartedly endorse Paulina as the next Election Commissioner and urge the Common Council to support and approve her nomination. The contributions of this department are indispensable, and its impact is felt across many facets of our society. I am confident that with your support and backing, Paulina will ensure the Election Commission continues to excel and deliver outstanding results for the benefit of our democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Joe'Mar Hooper, CEO
3rd Decade Inc.

Cc: Milwaukee Common Council