

Business Improvement District 19



BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT #19

Villard Avenue

OP

2015 PROPOSED OPERATING PLAN

September 20, 2014

Table of Contents

I.	Introduction	Page 3
	A. Background	
	B. Physical Setting	
II.	District Boundaries	Page 3
III.	Proposed Operating Plan	Page 4
	A. Plan Objectives	
	B. Proposed Activities	
	C. Proposed Expenditures	
	D. Proposed Budget	
	E. Financing Method	
	F. Organization of BID Board	
IV.	Method of Assessment	Page 9
	A. Annual Assessment Rate and Method	
	B. Excluded and Exempt Property	
V.	Relationship to Milwaukee Comprehensive Plan and Orderly Development of the City	Page 10
	A. City Plans	
	B. City Role in District Operation	
VI.	Plan Approval Process	Page 11
VII.	Future Year Operating Plans	Page 12
	A. Phase Development	
	B. Amendment, Severability and Expansion	

APPENDICES

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Background

In 1984, the Wisconsin legislature created 66.1109 (formerly S. 66.6080) of the Statutes (see Appendix A) enabling cities to establish Business Improvement Districts (BIDS). The purpose of the law is “to allow businesses within those districts to develop, to manage and promote the districts and to establish an assessment method to fund these activities.” (1983 Wisconsin Act 184, Section 1, legislative declaration.)

The City of Milwaukee has received a petition from the property owners which request creation of a Business Improvement District for the purpose of revitalizing and improving the Villard Avenue Business area on Milwaukee’s North Side (see Appendix B.) The BID law requires that every district have an annual Operating Plan. This document is the Operating Plan for the Villard Avenue BID #19 District. The BID proponents prepared this Plan with the technical assistance from the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development.

Villard Avenue was once a vibrant retail area. Currently, we are working with the City of Milwaukee property owners and developers and have formed a partnership with the Business Improvement District #1 regarding landscaping and we do have a cleanup of the avenue. We have been aggressive in the area of street cleaning by keeping the avenue cleaning daily.

Lastly, the BID has helped put many vacant buildings back on the tax roll. Our primary focus is also to help with the sales of properties that developers can use to re-establish the retail on Villard Avenue. We now have a nail & eyelash shop, daycare, and we are helping with a plumbing business and Insurance company. We are currently forming additional plans for the old library building to open up a family restaurant.

The BID #19 will host its 9th Annual Villard Avenue Festival along with a host of other activities and special events to unite the people of the area. In doing so Wells Fargo has already agreed to assist in the process of community outreach along with the Agape Center.

Lastly, the BID is currently forming additional plans for the old library building to help the needs of the community and to place the building back on the tax roll. Our primary focus is also to help with the sales of properties that developers can use to reestablish the retail on Villard Avenue.

B. Physical Setting

Boundaries of the District as shown on the map in Appendix A of this plan are Villard Avenue from 29th Street on the east to 43rd Street on the west, 35th Street one half blocks on the south continuing northeast to Rohr Avenue.

II. DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

Boundaries of the District are shown in Appendix C of this plan. A listing of the properties included in the District is provided in Appendix D.

III. PROPOSED OPERATING PLAN

A. Plan Objectives

The objectives of the BID are:

1. To improve the overall appearance and image of the street
2. To enhance safety and security of the District
3. To attract new businesses and increase private investment in the District
4. To create an environment that will attract new customers and increase shopping in the area

B. Proposed Activities

Principle activities to be engaged in by the District will include:

1. Improving overall appearance and image of the streets:
 - a. Providing maintenance and management of the streetscape improvements
 - b. Encouraging design-sensitive renovations of the buildings within the District
2. To enhance the Safety and security of the District by:
 - a. Encouraging and supporting safety programs in the District including police protection.
 - b. Working with the business and property owners of the properties that are a nuisance.
 - c. Implement a committee to reinforce and monitor Villard Avenue night life activities.
3. To attract new businesses and increase private investments in the District by:
 - a. Promoting private and public funding of District activities.

- b. Generating business recruitment leads and facilitating development within the BID in order to gain new business.
 - c. Creating and maintaining a Villard Avenue website which links business resources and develops a tool identifying properties to be targeted for renovation or redevelopment.
4. To create an environment that will attract new consumers and increase patronage on the BID by:
 - a. Maintaining communication with the property and business owners and operators in the BID regarding the design and implementation of BID activities.
 - b. Developing a marketing plan with strategies, media coverage, promotional materials, and special events for the District to increase consumer activity.
 - c. Providing information regarding business, site selection, and rehabilitation resources in order to strengthen existing and new businesses and improve the overall appearance of the businesses.
 - d. Participating in the Villard Avenue day Festival.

2014 Activities

CITY OF MILWAUKEE, BID#19
YEAR ENDING 2014-2015

The year 2014 remained to be a "Go Forward Year". We were able to draw new businesses into our neighborhood. Many of them were unaware of the steps of opening a business, help that is available to them, such as ME2, Façade grants and signage grants. BID #19 sat down with many of the owners and future owners and help them develop a plan of operation. We have went to the licensing board with one of the store owner. Listed below are some of the businesses we have assisted.

Listed below are some of the businesses we have assisted:

- Venessia R. Miller, has opened a daycare in a building that had closed and once served as a daycare 6 years ago at 5224 North 36th St.
- Rev. Blackburn donates his time in the community since the church building has been torn down and whose office located in the BID area at 5202 N. 34th St suite 2.
- Ms. Manisha Dobbs has an office that hires people for cleaning jobs and is also a private investigator at 5202 N 34rd St suite 3.
- Ms. Bernadette Grow who is the owner of SA & Associates Consulting LLC is opening a consulting company at 5202 N 34th suite 1.
- Mr. Stan Webb will be opening a plumbing store soon since he was helped through the workshop the BID sponsored with Mr. Deshae Agree.

- Since our last OP report, Dave Bryant at 5140 N Teutonia Ave has opened his store called Digital Wreck, which repairs computers and teaches computer classes. We helped him reconstruct his operational plan and prepared him for OBZA.
- We helped Mr. Alphonse open his African grocery store on West Hampton Ave.
- Alphonse Djomaha, 5050 W Hopkins
- Mr. Bernard James at 3400 W Villard (the old Ace Hardware store)is still looking forwarding to opening his building and is now looking into filing out the paperwork given him from our workshop with Mr. Agree.

2015 Planned Activities

- The BID now has an office on Villard Ave. and is now able to host meetings, classes and store our festival belongings there also.
- The Villard Avenue Festival next year will be our 10th year in a row.
- Continue our endeavors to speak with national businesses regarding the re-opening of closed businesses

C. Proposed Expenditures

The principal expenses of the BID in 2015 will be used to fund business technical assistance, maintain projects, maintain streetscape and overall appearance, and contracted management fees.

D. Proposed Budget

Villard Avenue BID #19	2015 Budget
Administrative Services	
Debt Services (City of Milwaukee)	
Loan Repayment –Principal and Interest	
Contractual Services	
Staff Support	20,000
Accounting Services	
2013 Audit	3,500
Bookkeeping	2,400

EWH Accounting	2,400
General Expences	
Postage & Copies	400
Utilities	8,000
Rent	12,000
Program Activities	
Marketing/Advertising	2,000
Villard Avenue Festival	10,000
Total	60,700
Reserved Funds	10,000

E. Financing Method

It is proposed to raise **\$75,283.00** through BID assessments (see Appendix D). The BID Board has the authority and responsibility to prioritize expenditures an revise the budget as necessary to match the funds actually available.

F. Organization of BID Board

Upon the creation of the BID, the Mayor appointed members to the District (Board). The Board’s primary responsibility is to implement this Operating Plan. This will require the Board to negotiate with providers of services and materials to carry out the Plan; to enter various contracts; to monitor development activity; to periodically revise the Operating Plan; to ensure District compliance with the provisions of applicable statues and regulations; and to make reimbursements for any overpayments of the BID assessments.

State law requires that the Board be composed of at least five (5) members and that a majority of the Board members be owners or occupants of property within the District.

The Board's primary responsibility is the implementation of this Operating Plan. The current BID #19 Board of Directors is:

- Sandra Renfro, President
Business Co-Owner of Sista Sista Sewing

- Charles Belin, Vice President
Business Owner of Villard Avenue Washer and Dryer

- Walter Chesser, Treasurer
Business Owner of Mil-Town Apparel

- Yvonne Ali, Secretary
Property Owner of Agape Theatre

- Tom Dienhart
Business Owner of Marine Land Pets

- Rita Warford
Business Owner of Sista Sista Sewing

- Earl Wheatfall
Property Owner

It is recommended that the BID board be structured and operated as follows:

1. Board Size – Fifteen (15)

*** The Board operates under a "GO FORWARD" attitude. Therefore, we have business owners that are waiting aggressively to be a part of such a wonderful change focused board. ***

2. Composition- At least three members are owners or operators of property within the District. Any non-owners or operators appointed to the Board shall be a resident of the City of Milwaukee. The Board will elect its President from among its members
3. Term- Appointments to the Board will be for a period of three years
4. Compensation- None

5. Meeting- All meeting of the Board will be governed by the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law.
6. Record Keeping- Files and records of the Board's affairs will be kept pursuant to public record requirement.
7. Staffing- the Board may employ staff and/or contract for staffing services pursuant to this Plan and subsequent modifications thereof.
8. Meetings- The Board will meet regularly, at least twice (2) a year. The Board will adopt rules of order (bylaws) to govern the conduct of its meetings if none are in place.

IV. METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

A. Assessment Rate and Method

1. BID- eligible properties are assessed in the following manner:

An unimproved tax parcel is assessed at a rate of \$4/\$1000 of assessed value. No minimum to unimproved parcels.

The principle behind the assessment methodology is that each property should contribute to the BID in proportion to the benefit derived from the BID. After consideration of other assessment methods, it was determined that assessed value of a property was the characteristic most directly related to the potential benefit provided by the BID. Therefore, a fixed assessment on the assessed value of the property was selected as the basic assessment methodology for this BID.

B. Exclude and Exempt Property

The law requires explicit consideration of certain classes of property. In compliance with the law the following statements are provided.

1. State Statue (1) (f)Im; the district will contain property used exclusively for manufacturing purposes, as well as properties used in part for manufacturing. These properties will be assessed according to the method set forth in this plan because it is assumed that they will benefit from development in the district.
2. State Statue 66.1109(5)(a); Property known to be used exclusively for residential purposes will not be assessed; such properties will be identified as BID Exempt Properties in Appendix D, as revised each year.
3. In accordance with the interpretation of the City Attorney regarding State Statue 66.608(1)(b), property exempt from general real estate has been excluded from the district. Privately owned tax-exempt property adjoining the district and which is contribution to the district on a voluntary basis.

V. RELATIONSHIP TO MILWAUKEE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE

A. City Plans

In February 1978, the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee adopted a Preservation Policy as the basis for its Comprehensive Plan and as a guide for its planning, programming, and budgeting decisions. The Common Council reaffirmed and expanded the Preservation Policy in Resolution File 881978, adopted January 24, 1989

The Preservation Policy emphasizes maintaining Milwaukee's present housing, jobs, neighborhoods, services, and tax base rather than passively accepting loss of jobs and population, or emphasizing massive new developments.

The District is a means of formalizing and funding the public-private partnership between the City and property owners in the Villard Avenue business area and for furthering preservation and redevelopment in this portion of the City of Milwaukee. Therefore, it is fully consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan and Preservation Policy.

B. City Role in the District Operation

The City of Milwaukee has committed to helping private property owners in the district promote its development. To this end, the City expected to play a significant role in the creation of the BID and in the implementation of the Operating Plan. In particular the City will:

1. Provide technical assistance to the proponents of the District through adoption of the Plan, and provide assistance as appropriate thereafter.
2. Monitor and, when appropriate, apply for outside funds that could be used in support of the District.
3. Collect assessments, maintain in a segregated account and disburse the monies of the District
4. Receive annual audits as required per sec. 66.1109(c) of the BID law.
5. Provide the Board, through the Tax Commissioner's Office on or before June 30th of each Plan year with the Official City records and the assessed value of each tax key number with the District, as of January of each Plan year, for purposes of calculating the BID assessments.
6. Encourage the State of Wisconsin, Milwaukee County and other units of government to support the activities of the District.

VI. PLAN APPROVAL PROCESS

A. Public Review Process

The Wisconsin Business Improvement District law establishes a specific process for reviewing and approving proposed districts. Pursuant to the statutory requirements, the following process will be used:

1. The Milwaukee City Plan Commission will review the proposed district boundaries and proposed Operating Plan and will then set a date for a formal hearing.

2. The City Plan Commission will send by certified mail a public hearing notice and a copy of the proposed Operating Plan to all owners of property within the proposed district. In addition a Class 2 notice of the public hearing will be published in a local newspaper of general circulation.
3. The City Plan Commission will hold a public hearing, will approve or disapprove the Plan, and will report its action to the Common Council
4. The Economic Development Committee of the Common Council will review the proposed BID Plan at a public hearing and will make a recommendation to the full Common Council
5. The Common Council will act on the proposed Bid Plan
6. If adopted by the Common Council, on the proposed BID Plan is sent to the Mayor for approval.
7. If approved by the Mayor, the BID is created and the Mayor will appoint members to the District Board established to implement the Plan.

B. Petition against Creation of the BID

The City may not create the Business Improvement District if, within 30 days of the City Plan Commission’s hearing, a petition is filed with the City containing signatures of: Owners of property to be assessed under the proposed initial Operating Plan having a valuation equal to more than 40% of the valuation of all property to be assessed under the proposed initial Operating Plan, using the method of valuation specified in the proposed Operating Plan; or

Owners of property to be assessed under the proposed initial Operating Plan having an assessed valuation equal to more than 40% of the assessed valuation of all property to be assessed under the proposed Operating Plan.

VII. FUTURE YEAR OPERATING PLANS

A. Phase Development

It is anticipated that the BID will continue to revise and develop the Operating Plan annually, in response to changing development needs and opportunities in the District, in accordance with the purposes and objectives defined in the initial Operating Plan.

Section 66.1109(3)(a) of the BID law requires the Board and the City to annually review and make changes as appropriate in the Operating Plan. Therefore, while this document outlines in the general terms the complete development program, it focuses activities

and information on specific assessed values, budget amounts and assessment amounts are based on this year's conditions. Greater detail about subsequent year's activities will be provided in the required annual Plan updates and approval by the Common Council of such Plan updates will be conclusive evidence of compliance with this Plan and the BID law.

In the later years, the BID Operating Plan will continue to apply the assessment formula, as adjusted, to raise funds to meet the next annual budget. However, the method of assessing will not be materially altered, except with the consent of the City of Milwaukee.

B. Amendment, Severability and Expansion

This BID has been created under the authority of Section 66.1109 of the Statutes of the State of Wisconsin. Should any court find any portion of this Statute invalid or unconstitutional its decision will not invalidate or terminate the BID and this BID Plan will be amended to conform to the law without need of reestablishment.

Should the Legislature amend the Statute to narrow or broaden the process of a BID so as to exclude or include as assessable properties a certain class or classes of properties, then this BID Plan may be amended by the Common Council of the City of Milwaukee as when it conducts its annual Operating Plan approval and without necessity to undertake any other act. This is specifically authorized under Section 66.1109(3)(b)