

**FATHER THOMAS J MUELLER
2515 South 30th Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215**

**Members of the Charter School Review Committee
City of Milwaukee**

Dear committee members:

Allow me to introduce myself. I have served SS Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Church here for the past 32 years as its rector. My late wife and I raised our three children here. They attended MPS and graduated from Vincent, Marshall and Riverside High Schools respectively – not elite schools with white majorities by any means. (The three of them hold 8 degrees among them at present, and they have done well with the education they received in MPS.) I served as PTA president for several years when two of the children were in elementary school. Since 1999, I have been a member of the Education Task Force of MICAHA (Milwaukee Innercity Congregations Allied for Hope), a faith-based social/economic justice organization of some forty congregations. I served for much of that time as Chairperson of that Task Force and also as Vice President of MICAHA. MICAHA is a partner in Schools and Communities United, along with the NAACP, ACLU, Wisconsin Jobs Now, Parents for Public Schools, Voces de la Frontera, WEAC, Women Committed, and numerous other organizations. A number of us have been attending and monitoring the work of CSRC as representatives of this broadly based body, SCU.

At the CSRC meeting in February, one of our members, Dr. Larry Hoffman presented a statistical analysis that conflicted with the analysis used by your committee. The validity of his analysis was called into question. I take no issue with that. But I was dismayed to hear Committee Vice President Joyce Mallory launch into a prolonged personal attack on Dr. Hoffman, questioning his civil rights credentials and his very right to come before the CSRC and raise questions. This was an *ad hominem* attack, not addressing the validity of his analysis but attacking him personally. It was over the top and unprofessional. No one on the Committee did anything to call Ms. Mallory back to order. In fact, when Dr Hoffman, who remained calm and polite throughout, attempted to answer Ms Mallory's tirade, she cut him off and only allowed him to speak when someone from the audience objected. It seems to me that Ms

Mallory and perhaps others on the Committee feel that their work and decisions should not be subject to public review. But this a public body of the City of Milwaukee, funded by the State; and city and state taxpayers, like Dr Hoffman and me, have a right to review and question the work of the Committee. If Joyce Mallory finds this offensive, then I would suggest that she resign her post and find some privately constituted and funded organization in which to work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas J. Mueller", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr. Thomas Mueller

Cc: Common Council President Michael Murphy