



Milwaukee Common Council
Milwaukee City Hall
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

June 12, 2025

Re: Support for the Creation of a TID for the Harambee Homeownership Initiative

To the Members of the Milwaukee Common Council:

We are writing with regard to the proposed Tax Incremental District as part of the Harambee Homeownership Initiative. **Malaika strongly supports the creation of this TID. We especially urge the Zoning, Neighborhoods, and Development (ZND) Committee members and the Common Council as a whole to approve this TID without delay to move this initiative forward.**

About Malaika: Malaika Early Learning Center is located on 1st Street and Auer Avenue in the northeast of the Harambee neighborhood. Our mission at Malaika is to work collaboratively with families to establish a strong academic, social, and emotional foundation in the lives of Milwaukee's economically disadvantaged children, all of whom deserve opportunities for excellence in education regardless of their socioeconomic situations or family structure. The enrollment in the K4– 3rd grade programs average about 100 children. On an average day, over 120 children receive services at Malaika. Our children come from neighborhoods across the city of Milwaukee.

Harambee Homeownership Initiative overview: There are 131 aspiring homeowners in Harambee, and only 29 have found attainable homes in the neighborhood. By 2028, allies of Harambee will build more than 50 entry level homes on vacant lots that are prioritized and attainable for existing residents with monthly prices that are at or below current rents in the neighborhood. **The Harambee Homeownership Initiative will strengthen the Harambee neighborhood. We are particularly excited about the opportunity that it will give many of our early childhood education teachers to become homeowners themselves.**

Malaika continues to be very involved with this initiative, and we are especially grateful to see the focus on building homes for early childhood educators. In December, Community Development Alliance staff members presented to Malaika teachers, staff, leaders, and supporters about the details of this initiative – and to let our early childhood educators know about this unique opportunity to be homeowners right here in the Harambee neighborhood. In April, [Malaika hosted an event](#) with all partners of this initiative announcing a major philanthropic gift.

Malaika strongly supports the Harambee Homeownership Initiative and the creation of a TID to make this exciting initiative happen. We are thankful to all allies and partners, including the City of Milwaukee, who are working to make this a reality.

Sincerely,

Tamara Johnson
Executive Director/Principal