

Carmen

SCHOOLS OF
Science & Technology

June 8, 2015

RE: Application for a change in zoning from Industrial-Mixed and Industrial-Office to General Planned Development for development of a school on properties located on the east and west sides of South 5th Street, south of West Harrison Avenue, in the 14th Aldermanic District.

We are writing in strong support of the zoning application submitted for Augustine Prep. Gus Ramirez, Chairman of HUSCO International, has long been an inspiring example of philanthropy in Milwaukee. Mr. Ramirez and his family have supported quality educational opportunities for Milwaukee's most at-risk children through diversified giving for more than 20 years. Fortunate to have had the benefit of a good education himself, Mr. Ramirez is filled with a deep sense of community responsibility.

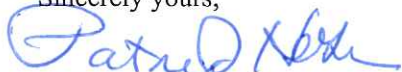
Mr. Ramirez helped lead the United Community Center (UCC) Board of Directors in 1995 to double the number of students in UCC schools, so now more than 1,000 students in K-3 through 8th grade have the opportunity for an excellent public education. He has helped lead fundraising so that UCC can expand educational opportunities for up to 1,600 students by 2020. Most of the students are Latinos from the low-income south side neighborhood surrounding the UCC. More than 70% of the children speak Spanish upon entrance, with parents who had little opportunity for education and have limited literacy in their native language. While some people view these issues as barriers to success, Mr. Ramirez's leadership and commitment to educational success has seen them as opportunities to educate both students and their parents.

Mr. Ramirez and his family's foundation have supported scholarships for hundreds of low-income Milwaukee students who otherwise would not be able to afford to go to college. For the past 17 years the family has awarded nearly 40 scholarships annually, including many to students from Carmen High School of Science and Technology. These scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 each. We know Mr. Ramirez to be a fervent supporter of schools like UCC and Carmen that strive to provide excellent educational opportunities for all students. Any school that is founded by Mr. Ramirez will surely be a tremendous asset to Milwaukee.

HUSCO International also actively sponsors Carmen students in an internship program that allows them to practice career readiness skills, understand workplace culture, and learn more about engineering and related technology careers.

His genuine compassion for improving the socio-economic conditions of the residents of Milwaukee's near South Side community, through his various educational efforts, have allowed Mr. Ramirez to make a deep impact on the lives of many families. At Carmen High School of Science and Technology, South Campus, we are turning away over 350 9th grade students each year due to lack of available seats. The school proposed by Mr. Ramirez will offer a similar program to that provided by Carmen Schools, and the demand for such programs is great. The exceptional athletic facilities to be built by Ramirez will also be shared with local schools and families.

Sincerely yours,



Patricia J. Hoben, Ph.D.
Head of Schools



Glen Hackmann
Chair, Carmen Schools Board of Directors