



THOMAS G. NARDELLI

City Hall, 200 East Wells Street, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3570 (414)286-2874

CHAIR:

- Economic Development Committee

MEMBER:

- Steering & Rules Committee
- Judiciary & Legislation Committee
- Wisconsin Center District Board

September 10, 2001

To All Judiciary and Legislation
Committee Members
Room 205
City Hall

RE: File Number 010576

Dear Members:

On your agenda for Friday, you will be considering the return of real estate at 6200 North 84th Street in the 15th District. Due to a scheduling conflict, I cannot attend your meeting to testify on behalf of the appellant.

The former industrially zoned land had been tax deeded for many years. Due to contamination, the city chose not to take ownership. The land was gifted to the Balm in the Gilead for All People congregation by the tax delinquent owner.

At that time, I had to fight with the Department of City Development who opposed the rezoning of the land. The position of DCD was that they "wanted it in their inventory of industrially zoned lands," despite the fact that they would never take it as an in-rem. Please know that until recently, I lived close to this site for 32 years and believed the site was good for a church. The land had become the neighborhood dump and a location for SUV mud races.

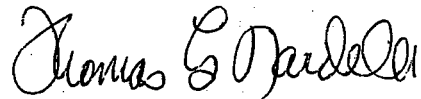
The property is in an area that could best be described as a "fragile" neighborhood. It is adjacent to over 40 4-unit apartment buildings that are a constant concern for DNS, Sanitation and the Milwaukee Police Department. I believed (and still do) that the Church could be a "rock" for the neighborhood and might even lead some congregation members to move into some of the neighboring apartment buildings.

September 10, 2001
Judiciary and Legislation Committee
Page 2

I don't know the full particulars associated with the tax deed, but I believe they are associated with the back taxes due upon the transfer of the land from the former owner to the congregation. The church would only qualify for tax exempt status prospectively and apparently are responsible for the back taxes on the site.

I have and continue to be supportive of the congregation and Pastor Walter Bates. I don't know if the congregation can meet the requirements of our ordinances to provide payment of all back taxes with interest and penalties if the committee recommend its return, but I do support the return if the committee is convinced that the church can meet all the financial obligations as identified in the file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas G. Nardelli".

Thomas G. Nardelli
Alderman, 15th District