



FOREST COUNTY POTAWATOMI COMMUNITY

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February 16, 2012

The Honorable Willie Hines, Jr.
Chairman, Committee on Steering and Rules
Milwaukee Common Council
200 E. Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI, 53202

Re: File #111337- Substitute resolution directing the Department of Public Works and the Department of City Development/Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee to jointly develop and issue a Request for Proposal relating to the development/construction of a new Police Administration/Municipal Court Building on property currently owned by the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee (“RACM”) at the southeast corner of North 27th Street and West Wisconsin Avenue and the development/construction of space for a new 1st District Police Station on Wisconsin Avenue between 6th Street and the Milwaukee River.

Dear Chairman Hines:

I am writing with regard to file number #111337 concerning the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a possible catalytic development at 27th Street and West Wisconsin Avenue which will be heard before the Milwaukee Common Council’s Steering and Rules Committee on Thursday, February 16, 2012.

Over the past twelve months the Forest County Potawatomi Community (FCPC) has committed to investing over \$200 million in four major construction projects in the heart of Milwaukee. Two of those projects will be at the Concordia Trust property in the area of 33rd and State Street in the Avenues West neighborhood. The first is a \$30 million rehabilitation of historic buildings on the eleven acre Concordia campus along with the construction of new multi-purpose space. The first phase of our new jobs growth development is the construction of a \$36 million state-of-the-art data center that will help companies grow jobs in Milwaukee.

The Potawatomi are bullish on Milwaukee’s near west side neighborhoods. However, we know that we are only one of the many players that must step up in order to turn the area around. The City of Milwaukee, State of Wisconsin and other private companies and institutions must also invest in the area in order for us to achieve our mutual vision of a rejuvenated neighborhood where job growth, home ownership and small business success are on the rise.

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Milwaukee Common Council
February 16, 2012
Page 2

Our support for file #111337 stems from our support for any major initiative that has the ability to reverse the blight and dis-investment that has plagued 27th and Wisconsin for the past three decades. In the 1980's the State of Wisconsin's bold initiative to develop a major Department of Natural Resources building on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive helped revive that commercial corridor and jump start the Brewer's Hill renaissance. We are hopeful that a Milwaukee Police Headquarters building at 27th and Wisconsin, with its hundreds of jobs, will replicate the success that Milwaukee saw on MLK, Jr. Drive.

We are fully aware that the file before you simply directs that an RFP be prepared and published in order to test the appetite of the market places for such a project. There are no guarantees that any investment will be made. Nevertheless, we believe that the hope of a new catalytic development at this critical intersection outweighs any possible negative impacts that may arise.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Jeffrey A. Crawford
Attorney General