



Journey House Center for Family Learning and Youth Athletics

2110 West Scott Street, Milwaukee, WI 53204

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www.journeyhouse.org

July 1, 2024

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Re: Appointment of Karen Gotzler to the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Dear Common Council Members:

As the CEO of Journey House, I have known and worked with Karen Gotzler on various community initiatives over the past twenty years. Karen's extensive experience, project management skills, and team-building skills make her an outstanding candidate to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority for the City of Milwaukee.

While CEO of the Urban Economic Development Association, Karen partnered with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) to bring Financial Opportunity Centers to Milwaukee. What a win for our city! Journey House has been a LISC Financial Opportunity Center serving hundreds of residents for over twelve years. UEDA provided technical assistance and training to our financial education staff in its early years.

Karen also served as the first part-time coordinator for the United Neighborhood Centers of Milwaukee (UNCOM), supporting the executive directors of 8 neighborhood centers in working collectively and taking on joint projects. Karen was an early inaugural advisor to the Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative project of the Zilber Family Foundation's Zilber Neighborhoods Initiative and the Director of the Milwaukee Area Workforce Funding Alliance. This private-public philanthropic effort supported workforce development projects.

Karen has significant skills in management and training, as well as coordinating and collaborating with various community groups. Karen demonstrates high strategic thinking and has strongly advocated for community involvement.

Please consider Karen Gotzler to serve our city on the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee Board of Commissioners.

Sincerely,

Michele Bria

Dr. Michele Bria, Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Michele Bria, Ph.D.

Ex-Officio, Chief Executive Officer