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July 7, 2015

Alderman James Bohl
City of Milwaukee
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Bohl:

I regret I will be out of town on July 16th for the meeting of the Zoning, Neighborhood and Development Committee at which the topic of St. Augustine School will be raised. As both a city resident, and the leader of a local non-profit dedicated to strengthening the foundations of our community, I am fully supportive of this project and urge you and your colleagues to vote "yes" for St. Augustine Prep.

Healthy vibrant communities rely on an engaged citizenship who demonstrate their care and commitment in a variety of ways. It is hard to imagine a finer example of civic engagement than the Ramirez family. Ensuring that children have access to excellent education and outstanding extra-curricular experiences is something the Ramirez family has long dedicated itself to – both in terms of their time and their treasure. Milwaukee is so incredibly fortunate to have their commitment to this cause – it is a rare and remarkable gift to have an individual family bring forth such a compelling vision to lift not only thousands of young people and their families, but also a neighborhood and business community as well. And they are offering not just a vision, but the financial resources and plan to make it happen.

I have had the opportunity to see the positive power for good that the Ramirez family creates first hand through their support of the Milwaukee and Waukesha YMCA's. Austin Ramirez serves on the Board of the Milwaukee Y and has been a primary leader in our recent restructuring and turn-around. Just over one year ago, he and Gus Ramirez brought forward a vision for a stronger regional YMCA and through acts of incredible generosity - financial, leadership and advocacy, they saved the Y for the region and helped us create a much more compelling vision for programming Milwaukee as an urban YMCA. The Ramirez family is a gift to our region and they never fail to deliver excellence in all that they do.

I urge you to support St. Augustine Prep. Please let us put forth this story as a model for the nation on inspired citizenship!

Gratefully,

Julie Tolan
President & CEO
YMCA of Metropolitan Milwaukee

cc: Alderman Jose Perez; Alderman Nik Kovac; Alderman Robert Bauman; Alderman Willie Wade, and Mr. Jim Owczarski, Milwaukee City Clerk.

YMCA OF METROPOLITAN MILWAUKEE

Association Offices
161 West Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 4000, Milwaukee, WI 53203
P 414.224.9622 F 414.224.0151 ymcamke.org

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