



## OUR LADY OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE PARISH

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November 7, 2024

City of Milwaukee  
809 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Attn: Chair Stephanie Bloomingdale, City Plan Commission  
Vice Chair Russell Stamper, Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development  
Chair Eric Lowenberg, Board of Zoning Appeals  
President Jose G. Perez, Common Council

Dear Chair Bloomingdale, Alderman Stamper, Chair Lowenberg, President Perez, and Members:

I am writing to express my support of Kinship Community Food Center's (Kinship) application for a zoning change and special use permit for their proposed project at 421 E. Locust Street. As a pastor of this neighborhood and a longstanding supporter of Kinship's work, I believe that Kinship has consistently demonstrated a commitment to being an exemplary and positive force in our neighborhood.

Since it became an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization 12 years ago, Kinship has been a pillar in a densely residential sect of the Riverwest neighborhood. The organization's mission and activities have a positive impact on the well-being of our community, providing essential services and support to those in need in the safest and most dignified manner. Their visionary project in the Harambee/Riverwest neighborhood to expand its highly-sought-after services is admirable; as such, it is my hope that the Board of Zoning Appeals will grant approval for these requests.

In my role as Pastor of the Family of Five Parishes and Episcopal Vicar for Urban Ministry, I have personally witnessed Kinship's professional maintenance of their property. One of the parishes I preside over, Our Lady of Divine Providence Parish shares property and a parking lot with Kinship. They've consistently shown a strong sense of responsibility toward the upkeep and appearance of our premises. Their attention to detail and commitment to maintaining a clean and aesthetically pleasing environment has contributed positively to the overall appearance of the Riverwest neighborhood.

Understanding the history of Kinship as a volunteer-run ministry of the parish for more than 30 years, and in my decade of interactions with their organization, I have observed a genuine dedication to fostering positive relationships within the community. Their commitment to open communication and collaboration with businesses and neighbors alike is evidenced by several partnerships they've cultivated over the years. They are a positive outlet for all in the community and their desire to more deeply serve our neighbors in this new location is one I wholeheartedly stand behind.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider Kinship's requests favorably. It is a critical next step toward effectively addressing hunger, isolation, and poverty in our city. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

*Very Rev. Tim L. Kitzke*

Very Reverend Timothy L. Kitzke  
Pastor, Family of Five Parishes  
Episcopal Vicar for Urban Ministry, Archdiocese of Milwaukee