

Alderman Robert Bauman
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

CITY OF MILWAUKEE

2016 JUN 24 A 11: 34

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

June 20, 2016

Re: Proposed 1550 N. Prospect Avenue development

Dear Alderman Bauman:

Contrary to the letters and testimony you're getting from residents of 1522 N. Prospect, as a resident and business owner in your district, I wanted to reach out to you to be sure you knew that there are other residents in your district, like me, who support the proposed development at 1550 N. Prospect Avenue.

Perhaps you recall, I testified at the recent City Plan Commission, indicating my support. I wanted to reemphasize some of the points I made for you and your colleagues as you move forward with the review process for this project.

I am what I like to refer to as a "reborn" Milwaukeean. I was raised here, but moved back about four years ago, bringing the technology startup I launched in Los Angeles, Okanjo with me. My company employs highly skilled technology experts. Though I love this great city, my biggest challenge to continued growth is attracting and retaining the skilled workforce I need for my business.

This is not a problem I face alone. I know other technology companies in Milwaukee who have fulltime recruiters working around the clock to try to attract top talent. The bottom line is these highly skilled workers have choices, and Milwaukee doesn't always measure up against other cities competing for their skills.

We're making great progress in this City. And I believe projects like The Mandel Group's apartment tower on the East Side, the Street Car, and the proposed development at 1550 N. Prospect can make a difference. It's about creating choices – reasons for top talent to consider Milwaukee.

I'm a fan of progress and intentionality. I believe this project has it all – quality, top-notch development, as well as restoration and preservation of a local landmark. It has my support, and I encourage you to and your colleagues to give it yours as well.

Sincerely,

Michael Drescher
Home: 400 N Broadway, Units 903 & 1001, Milwaukee, WI 53202
Business: Okanjo, 220 E. Buffalo St., Suite 405, Milwaukee, WI 53202

CC: Jim Owczarski, City Clerk
Chris Lee, Staff Assistant, Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee
Milwaukee Common Council