

Ceella, Jessica

From: Owczarski, Jim
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 12:03 PM
To: Ceella, Jessica
Subject: FW: Milwaukee Streetcar Support

For the file.

Thanks,

Jim

Jim Owczarski, CMC
City Clerk
(414)-286-2998
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From: Erik Gerard Vanden Heuvel [<mailto:egv@uwm.edu>]
Sent: Tuesday, January 20, 2015 11:44 AM
To: Mayor Tom Barrett; Owczarski, Jim
Subject: Milwaukee Streetcar Support

Mayor Tom Barret, City Clerk Jim Owczarski, members of the Common Council and any and all others involved with the proposed Milwaukee Streetcar project,

Good afternoon, I am a recent UWM grad and intern for MetroGO currently studying at the University of Amsterdam for a Master's degree in urban planning. I just wanted to show a quick round of support and say that having lived and traveled throughout the Netherlands for six months now, using a streetcar almost every day, it's become such an integrated part of my life without even realizing it. I am beyond excited for Milwaukee and can't wait to see this happen for the people who deserve it so very much.

On top of all the benefits that city officials, planners, and streetcar advocates alike say about this project, I'd like to point out the social benefits that truly have a profound effect on the local culture. I see people everyday, of all ages and races, chatting, getting to know each other, asking for directions or helping someone with a stroller. The city grows much stronger with a streetcar that can provide more than just geographical

connections. It seems more to me now like a vital piece of infrastructure that Milwaukee NEEDS in order to continue growing in every possible way.

I left Milwaukee this past summer with the intention of moving back to the US after finishing my degree, to a city, other than Milwaukee, with a thoughtful and well developed transportation system. However, after having followed the news about the streetcar and seeing the possibility of it actually happening, I'm genuinely reconsidering that thought. And I think the same can be said for many college graduates/millennials who are looking to settle in a city with the same progressive ideals that they value.

So, to all the supporters of the Milwaukee streetcar...Good luck tomorrow!

Thank you for all you have done thus far,

Erik Vanden Heuvel