



July 12, 2016

Alderwoman Milele Coggs
City of Milwaukee
200 East Wells Street
City Hall, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Commissioner Rocky Marcoux Reappointment

Dear Alderwoman Coggs,

Riverworks Development Corporation (RDC) has a great working relationship with the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development under the leadership of Commissioner Rocky Marcoux. The Commissioner has been part of our leadership team that has been able to leverage significant funding from national foundations outside of Milwaukee i.e. Kresge Foundation and ARTPLACE AMERICA to invest in the Harambee and Riverwest Neighborhoods.

Over the past five year, the Commissioner has supported two different Targeted Investment Neighborhoods (TIN) in the Harambee and Riverwest Neighborhoods both have had a positive impact on the housing stock in these neighborhoods. He has been heavy involved in two neighborhood plans, Riverworks Strategic Action Plan that was completed in the Summer of 2012 and the Riverworks Design Development Charette 2014 and more recently the City of Milwaukee Challenge Fund Housing initiative. RDC has found his office to be responsive to our concerns and their willingness to work with us to come up with the best possible solutions.

From our direct experience with the commissioner, we believe that the Commissioner understands the many challenges in these neighborhoods and he has created some tools in partnership with BIDs/organizations to address some of the issues that are plaguing our communities. However, I know from my close to 30 years of working for the City of Milwaukee and nonprofits organizations that government alone cannot solve all of our community ills but it can create the environment where businesses and people want to invest. We believe that our current Commissioner has the skillsets and passion for Milwaukee to move Milwaukee forward; we are hoping that Common Council Members can work through their concerns/issues and we all can focus on how best we can improve our neighborhoods as we rebuild downtown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Darryl Johnson'.

Darryl Johnson
Executive Director
Riverworks Development Corporation

cc: Council President Ashanti Hamilton