



SAN LORENZO SEMINARY / NAPCC NOVITIATE
1802 Sky Drive, P.O. Box 247, Santa Ynez, California 93460

January 4, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council
200 East Wells Street, #205
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Dear Members of the Common Council:

Peace and all good!

I write this letter to support the appointment of *Makda Fessahaye* to serve as the City of Milwaukee Director of Employee Relations. As you will see from the resume she has submitted, she has a variety of experiences that make her well-qualified to serve her hometown in this position. In addition, the extensive list of her activities and memberships demonstrates her commitment to public service. Finally, the list of awards and recognitions shows that others have noticed both her accomplishments and her potential.

I have known Makda for about 15 years. We first met when I was Pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish in Milwaukee (2004-2008). Makda was a member of the All Saints-St. Martin de Porres Youth Group. Even then, she stood out among her peers as especially mature, self-motivated, and ready to help others. Because she knew that I was a lawyer (Wis. Bar No. 1038349), she started to ask questions about what she needed to do to prepare for law school.

Throughout her undergraduate studies at Northwestern University and her years at Marquette University Law School, Makda and I have periodically stayed in touch. I have been privileged to see her hard work pay off, particularly as she has progressed to positions of ever greater responsibility in the DOC, particularly in HR. Throughout this time, Makda has never forgotten the community that supported and challenged her as a child, teen, and young adult. She has been a strong promoter of greater diversity and opportunity in the legal profession. I have confidence that she will use her solid values and estimable skills to benefit the people of Milwaukee.

Sincerely yours,

Rev. John Celichowski, OFM Cap.
Novitiate Director
North American Pacific Capuchin Conference