

The Medical Society of Milwaukee County

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RE: File Number 100848—a substitute ordinance relating to zoning regulations for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing

Dear Tobie Black,

The Medical Society of Milwaukee County (MSMC) is a member organization made up of 2,691 Physicians and Residents in Milwaukee County and has been involved and engaged in the development of this proposed plan related to transitional and permanent supportive housing since the idea took root among advocates and others nearly two years ago. The MSMC wishes to express its strong support for the proposed substitute ordinance relating to zoning regulations for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing as stated in File Number 100848.

The proposed City of Milwaukee Code of Ordinance zoning changes contained in this file are the direct result of direction members of the Common Council have provided over time on this very important issue. These zoning land use modifications will establish a more straightforward process for the development and operation of both transitional and permanent supportive housing units by quality supportive housing providers. In turn, a vulnerable population that is generally homeless or at risk of homelessness and that has mental health conditions or other disabilities will have the opportunity to benefit from safe and affordable housing and services that will assist them to live independently.

The increased public and private sector focus on the development of permanent supportive housing units was advanced by the 2006 series of articles by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter Meg Kissinger. These articles brought to light the alarming need for safe and supportive environments for people who have both mental health conditions and are homeless.

Although progress has been made toward achieving the goals of the Plan, our work is not done. We are asking for your support for this proposed substitute ordinance as a critical step in achieving the stated objectives of both the Plan and the Common Council.

On behalf of the MSMC I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request and urge your supportive action on this resolution at the ZND meeting on April 27th.

Please feel free to contact our office at (414) 475-4750 if you wish to discuss this further.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Clarence Chou, MD MSMC President

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