



MAYOR CAVALIER JOHNSON
CITY OF MILWAUKEE

October 25, 2024

Dear Common Council Members,

I have chosen not to sign Common Council file # 240788, a substitute resolution authorizing the assigning and transfer of funds from the 2024 One Milwaukee Citizen-Led Transformational Fund (CLTF) Special Purpose Account to various departments for various purposes. The file, as passed by the Council, banks into a new Council-controlled account funding I proposed allocating to repairing our libraries, cash-financing the Commercial Improvements Program, improving our local roads and providing additional tools to the police department to combat reckless driving.

I have repeatedly heard from the very same alders who supported this file that libraries, commercial improvements, roads and reckless driving are some of the highest priorities for their districts. Yet, this file defunds those initiatives, and, in turn, sends a message to our residents that I cannot support: that these issues are not important.

To be clear, the very existence of the CLTF was unprecedented: a mayor provided its common council \$2.4 million to spend however it chose. Yet, that decision was made public a year ago and not a single dollar was spent, risking that funding to expire at the end of this year and returning to the general fund. Instead of acting on this opportunity, the Council created a slush fund for an unknown use. Now, any spending of this money will not be subject to the same level of public transparency, awareness and debate as would occur during the budget process.

I expect that future allocations for council-led initiatives and projects will draw down from the newly created Council-Led Transformational Fund rather than reduce even more funding to critical needs for our residents.

For these reasons, I cannot attach my signature to this Council file.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cavalier Johnson', with a stylized, flowing script.

Mayor Cavalier Johnson