



**THE BUSINESS COUNCIL**  
MAKE THE CONNECTION

July 19, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council  
City Hall Room 205  
200 E Wells St  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

Honorable Council Members:

The Business Council, Inc. (TBC) is a 501 (c)(3) that has been in existence since 1998. Our goal is simple: to assist minority businesses and corporations with procurement acumen based on Supplier Diversity's Best Practices. Since 2005, we have tracked TBC member spend, or business relationships, with local corporations to the amount of \$270 million. This sounds like a huge accomplishment; however, we know that there is a lot more work to be done in ensuring procurement with ethnic and diverse businesses that reside within the City of Milwaukee.

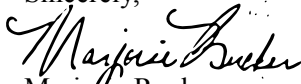
Based on Council File Number 210547, Mayor Tom Barrett's first allocation of American Rescue Plan funding, The Business Council, Inc. strongly urges the Common Council to adopt this file. The Stronger Summer Plan provides over \$93 million in needed funding for a range of critical programs as a first phase in the Mayor's Recovery and Resilience Plan. These resources will help Milwaukee continue a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through the summer and into fall.

The Stronger Summer proposal is a strong first step toward a more resilient city. The plan is grounded in racial equity and inclusion, which TBC strongly supports, and takes intentional first steps to address the unequal impact of COVID-19 on Milwaukee residents.

The Stronger Summer package makes investments in affordable housing and homeownership that will benefit Milwaukee families this year. It provides funding to help Milwaukee's small businesses and diverse entrepreneurs weather what we all hope are the final days of the pandemic. The plan expands resources to households facing eviction, and funds important efforts to continue building high-quality early childhood education for families. It makes investments to increase employment and wages for Milwaukee workers through training and career pathways.

Your support of the Stronger Summer plan will help Milwaukee emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger and more equitable. We urge you again to adopt the plan when it is before the Council this month.

Sincerely,

  
Marjorie Rucker  
Executive Director

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