



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
18th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



December 12, 2022

City of Milwaukee
City Plan Commission
809 N. Broadway, 2nd Floor
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Attention: Mr. Sam Leichtling, City Planning Manager
Delivered Electronically

Dear Milwaukee City Plan Commission,

As you know, the last decade in Wisconsin's juvenile corrections system has shown lawmakers and the public the need for change. Following investigations, legislative committees, and public hearings - the State Legislature unanimously passed 2017 Act 185 bringing long overdue reform to our juvenile corrections system. I am proud to have played an integral role in passing this legislation, which was a rare instance of true bipartisanship in our lawmaking.

I now ask for your support in continuing the implementation of this legislation and for this location of the Type I facility.

Evidence based research shows that housing juveniles close to home matters. Experts presented this to the state legislature. This location, and those housed within, will be supported with better treatment, programming and re-entry services. This will result in lower recidivism rates, which increases public safety and saves taxpayer dollars.

The Type I facility will be secure and offer no threat to public safety. In 2018, I served on the Juvenile Corrections Study Committee with one of its responsibilities being the exploration of facility sites. Location is not easy. This facility needs a location that has large enough acreage, access to public transit and access to a diverse employment base. I have personally visited the site, walked the property, and the areas surrounding it.

I support maintaining operation of the Felmers O. Chaney Correctional Center. This facility offers important employment training programs for adult inmates, community service opportunities, as well as educational programming for those seeking to advance their education, among other programs.

Today's meeting is important. Not moving forward means juveniles will continue to be housed at Lincoln Hills – a facility that has been deemed unfit for its mission. Not moving forward also means Lincoln Hills will not close as required by State Law, costs will continue to increase, and the uncertainty of how future administrations will approach this issue will still exist.

Together let us take the next step and complete this important reform. The plan before you today is sound and I support it. It must go forward. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evan Goyke", written over a horizontal line.

State Representative Evan Goyke
18th Assembly District