



April 17, 2025

Dear Members of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee,

Earlier this week, ZND had a robust discussion of downtown and neighborhood development. Rightly so, as these issues are continually a work in progress. As members of the Common Council know, individual unions and the Milwaukee Area Labor Council as well as MICA and a number of other nonprofit organizations worked with many of you on the Council to pass community benefits policies in the past 15-20 years. These organizing efforts sought to create more economic opportunities for Milwaukee city residents as a result of development projects. The ultimate desired effect of this community effort was that market development would also follow suit, and seek to make these connections in projects that did not request city subsidy.

What was not discussed at the last meeting was The Moxy Hotel. The \$70 million proposed hotel that cleared the Milwaukee CPC in February has now been held two cycles by the ZND committee, despite the fact that it is not seeking any subsidy. This puts opportunity for Milwaukee workers to build the hotel and the workers who will eventually run and clean and serve at the hotel on hold. We would like to see this project move forward, especially as other sectors of the economy falter due to federal actions.

One further note, choosing a union in the service and hospitality sector is conducted through an election process. Workers democratically select representation. The National Labor Relations Act does not create opportunities to make that selection for them ahead of time.

We know that when working people stand together, we win, and we work every day for fair wages, safety, and dignity on the job. Our Council represents 85 local unions and councils in the Milwaukee area, and we are a proud chartered member of the AFL-CIO celebrating our 65th Anniversary last year. Please feel free to reach out to any of us for dialogue on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pam Fendt, President, Milwaukee Area Labor Council

Dan Bukiewicz, President, Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades

Carlos Ginard, Vice-President, CMRJB Workers United; representing Local 122 in Milwaukee

Louis Davis, Executive Director, SEIU Wisconsin

cc Common Council President José Pérez

Chris Lee, staff assistant

Jeffrey Osterman, legislative assistant

EM/OPEIU9,AFLCIO