

KENNETH W. PETERS 1005 RICHARDS RD. SUITE F HARTLAND, WI 53029

Alderdwoman Milele A. Coggs
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St
Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderdwoman Coggs,

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Myron Smith obtaining his food dealer license in the City of Milwaukee.

First, I would like to tell you that I have no financial interest or other interest in Mr. Smith obtaining a license with the exception that I know Mr. Smith, I know his character, and I know his love for the community and the people he serves. Mr. Smith did not ask me to write this letter. I learned about the hearing and reached out to him.

I met Myron in 1996 while he was working at his grandparent's restaurant. You are probably very familiar with Mr. Perkins restaurant on Atkinson Avenue. I am a 30-year veteran of law-enforcement and retired from the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation as a Special Agent and began frequenting Mr. Perkins restaurant three times a week. My boss at the time was African-American and I am white and Hispanic. I never spent any time in the central city of Milwaukee. I learned through my experiences at Mr. Perkins restaurant that there are so many great, hard-working, families and people in neighborhoods that I would normally be wary of because of crime. I met Myron because he worked at Mr. Perkins restaurant. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins are Myron's grandparents. Myron bussed tables and cleaned daily. Every time I would come in, I would say hi to Myron and he would reply with a positive and compassionate gesture. I was so impressed with his attitude towards life, his community, his belief in God, and his family. As the years went and I met Will and Cherry Smith who operated the restaurant. I was so impressed with their demeanor, family values, and love for their community. Myron and his family taught me about cultural diversity

In 2003, I had an opportunity to invest in a Culver's restaurant. I did not have a lot of money, but I did have my life savings. I invested into a Culver's Restaurant with my former business partner. He was reluctant to open in the central city. At the time he had two other Culver's restaurants in Waukesha County. He could've opened a restaurant in Shorewood or somewhere else. I truly believed that not only would Culver's be successful in the central city, but it would also be beneficial to the community.

We opened the Culver's on Saturday, December 13, 2003 at 5501 W. Fond du Lac Avenue (I sold my shares of the business in 2015). Prior to opening, I reached out to Mr. Perkins restaurant looking for Myron. I asked Myron if he was interested in working with Culver's possibly working up to a manager position. I told him someday he could on his own Culver's. Myron accepted a job with us and brought his positive attitude, family values, and love of the community with him.

Over the years, Myron has worked tirelessly making Culver's a community location and a place where people and families can visit. However, over the years, the crime rate has increased, and crime has gotten more violent and brazen. I know this personally. In 2004, one of my partners was shot and killed at the Shell gas station on Villard Ave. His name was Jay Balchunas. He was getting ready for a surveillance shift and was approached outside of the gas station and robbed. The gunman realized he was a special agent and shot him. I used to try to figure out who I was to blame for that. What I did realize is that it was not the gas station owners' fault. I remember people being upset with a gas station owner.

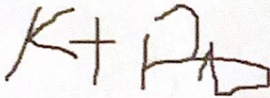
Today I am telling you that Myron Smith is one of your best allies in his desire to Maintain a community partnership through Culver's restaurant. He is also someone that younger people can look up to as a

mentor. Myron started his dream by cleaning tables and picking up dishes at his grandparents' restaurant. His grandparents once had the same dream. Today, Myron is taking his last step in fulfilling his dream to own a multimillion-dollar restaurant in the community that he loves. Nothing gets better than this.

You will look at police reports and talk about them. The police reports do not give you the true picture of the commitment of Myron and his staff. What the police reports don't tell you is that Myron was trained to be transparent and communicate with the police department on what happens at or near the store. I understand why you're having this hearing. But it is a negative byproduct of Myron being transparent and calling police when he thinks there are issues of safety. I know other businesses avoid calling the police because they don't want to be in the situation that Myron is in now, so they handle things on their own or they turn a blind eye to shots fired out in the parking lot or they don't get involved in something that's happening. Myron is just the opposite. He cares about the community and the safety of the community.

I ask you to Grant Myron Smith his food dealer license. I know he will do well and continue providing a safe place for the people and families in the community to get together and eat.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K + P" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kenneth W. Peters