

MILWAUKEE URBAN LEAGUE



July 22, 2019

Milwaukee Common Council
C/o Jim Owczarski, City Clerk
City Hall 200 E. Wells St.
Milwaukee WI 53202

Dear Milwaukee Common Council members:

Established in 1919 as an affiliate of the National Urban League (NUL), the Milwaukee Urban League is one of numerous NUL affiliates established during the early 20th century, when millions of African Americans migrated northward from southern states in search of greater employment and entrepreneurial opportunities and a better way of life.

After 100 years of service to the Milwaukee community, the Milwaukee Urban League is committed to empowering all individuals of our community regardless of race, gender, and socioeconomic status. We stand upon the pillars of prosperity, especially for African Americans and other traditionally underrepresented communities, in the areas of education, employment, economic vibrancy and equity. Examples of our K-12 education services include college and career readiness & exploration, STEM, as well as work-based learning opportunities focused on youth ages 16 -19, who are not on a college-bound pathway. Our workforce development services include commercial driver's license, driver's license permit and driver's license recovery classes, online application assistance and one-on-one job coaching along with financial literacy and management services.

We are in favor of the approving Amendment No. 5 to the Project Plan and authorizing additional funding and expenditures for Tax Incremental District No. 41 in the 6th Aldermanic District; as well as the approval of Amendment No. 5 to the Project Plan and authorizing additional funding and expenditures for Tax Incremental District No. 48 in the 3rd, 4th and 6th Aldermanic Districts. Approving these funding requests for TID #41 and TID #48 would provide the necessary funds needed to begin the streetcar project expansion into Bronzeville. We understand the combined value of both TIDs #41 and #48 have the potential to provide the estimated additional \$30 million that is needed to accomplish this task. We kindly request the council to act expeditiously in passing the amendments given the time sensitive regulation of funds for both TIDs. If no action is taken before the expiration dates, we risk losing out on a vital funding source for the development of the streetcar project extension into Bronzeville.

The Milwaukee Urban League is in the heart of Bronzeville and we see this expansion making a positive impact on the work we are already doing. We believe that approving the use of tax incremental financing for the extension of the streetcar route into the Bronzeville area would assist individuals in accessing the resources we provide for career opportunities and exposure to other businesses and services along Dr. Martin Luther King Drive. Continual access from the streetcar expansion would also give more residents an opportunity to experience all the other exciting developments happening around the downtown area and other parts of the city.

Again, we kindly urge you to amend the authorization of additional funding and expenditures for Tax Incremental Districts No. 41 and No. 48. Our organization's mission of "empowering communities and changing lives", is a reflection of the passion we have for the well-being of our city. We are passionate about the longevity of cultural communities and we're dedicated to making sure that the north side of Milwaukee can continue to be a part of the historic growth and evolution that the rest of the city is experiencing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dr. Eve M. Hall'.

Dr. Eve M. Hall
President & CEO

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