



Layton Boulevard West Neighbors

Since 1995 building partnerships for a neighborhood that cares

December 21, 2016

Common Council Steering and Rules Committee
City Hall
200 E. Wells Street, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Letter of support for Escuela Verde

Dear Steering & Rules Committee,

On behalf of Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN), please accept this correspondence as our letter of support for Escuela Verde, located at 3628 W. Pierce Street, Milwaukee WI 53215. We trust that the City of Milwaukee's Charter School Review Committee (CSRC) has vetted the school effectively and ask that you support their recommendation to renew Escuela Verde's five-year renewal charter contract at the Steering & Rules committee meeting on Friday, January 6th, 2017 at 1:30. Escuela Verde's efforts to provide quality high school education and programming to youth in the Silver City, Burnham Park, and Layton Park neighborhoods fits a need for our residents as identified in the 2011 neighborhood Quality of Life Plan.

LBWN is an innovative community development corporation founded by the School Sisters of St. Francis to stabilize and revitalize the Silver City, Burnham Park, and Layton Park neighborhoods. Since 1995, LBWN has employed numerous revitalization strategies to facilitate more than \$45 million in investments, improve the quality of life for 21,000 people who reside here, and increase the community's confidence levels in the neighborhood. More than one third of the neighborhood's population is comprised of children under the age of 18.

Escuela Verde has a unique approach to education that places heavy emphasis on the importance of community service, in part to encourage students to give back to their communities. Many Escuela Verde students and faculty have fostered school-community partnerships by volunteering their time and talents in a variety of ways that have made a positive impact in the neighborhood. Additionally, Escuela Verde's choice to renovate a vacant property that had been a blighting influence for more than six years has had a positive impact along the Pierce Street corridor by building on the "green" movement that is occurring in the Menomonee Valley and on Pierce Street and furthering the revitalization of the area.

I encourage you to favorably consider Escuela Verde's renewal. We look forward to continuing to work with Escuela Verde and its community partners to create a stronger Milwaukee.

Sincerely,

Brianna Sas-Pérez
Interim Executive Director

