

EDITORIAL

ALDERMEN SHOULD CONFIRM MARCOUX

MBJ In a repeat of four years ago, Milwaukee Department of Development commissioner Rocky Marcoux is going through a tough confirmation process. Aldermen are threatening to reject his appointment based on claims he ignored development in neighborhoods of the city.

But it appears most of the criticism aimed at Marcoux during a recent Common Council meeting was actually intended for Mayor Tom Barrett, who Marcoux reports to, and he is being used, as Ald. Michael Murphy pointed out, as a "sacrificial lamb."

Marcoux is a tireless cheerleader for the city, sometimes to an extreme. He has improved his communication style and working with the business community over the past four years.

He works hard and was the key driver in helping to secure the \$450 million Northwestern Mutual corporate headquarters currently under construction in downtown Milwaukee and many other projects underway in the central business district.

His critics say he and Barrett are ignoring development opportunities in Milwaukee's neighborhoods. More projects are needed in areas throughout the city, but that is something both Marcoux and aldermen need to work on together.

As we said four years ago, aldermen need to confirm Marcoux for his appointment.

In the end, Barrett deserves approval of those he chooses to be his key department heads because he ultimately will be held responsible for Marcoux's success or failure.

MILWAUKEE BUSINESS JOURNAL

JULY 15, 2016

HE SAID IT

"I was most troubled by the characterization of Rocky as too 'downtown focused.' That statement is simply not true. Our firm, General Capital, has specifically been involved in numerous projects with Rocky that are located outside of downtown."

SIG STRAUTMANIS of General Capital Group, on criticism of Milwaukee development commissioner Rocky Marcoux, in a July 8 letter to the Milwaukee Common Council. General Capital partnered with Milwaukee officials on an

industrial building at North 31st Street and West Capitol Drive.