

## Elmer, Linda

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**From:** Owczarski, Jim  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2020 10:55 PM  
**To:** Elmer, Linda  
**Subject:** Fw: Historic MLK BID #8 Annexation OPPOSITION Petitions & More  
**Attachments:** image0.jpeg; Video.mov

For the file, please.

Jim

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**From:** 5 Points Art Gallery & Studios LLC <5pointsartgalleryandstudios@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2020 2:22 PM  
**To:** planadmin <planadmin@milwaukee.gov>; Owczarski, Jim <jowcza@milwaukee.gov>; Little, Kenneth <Kenneth.Little@milwaukee.gov>; Martinez, Natanael <Natanael.Martinez@milwaukee.gov>; Acquah, Terence <tacqua@milwaukee.gov>; govinfo@wisconsin.gov <govinfo@wisconsin.gov>; eversinfo@wisconsin.gov <eversinfo@wisconsin.gov>; ltgov@wisconsin.gov <ltgov@wisconsin.gov>; rep.bowen@legis.wi.gov <rep.bowen@legis.wi.gov>; sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov <sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov>; Mayor Tom Barrett <mayor@milwaukee.gov>; Johnson, Cavalier <Cavalier.Johnson2@milwaukee.gov>; Kovac, Nik <nkovac@milwaukee.gov>; Hamilton, Ashanti <ahamil@milwaukee.gov>; Rainey, Khalif <Khalif.Rainey@milwaukee.gov>; Murphy, Michael (Alderman) <mmurph@milwaukee.gov>; Stamper II, Russell <Russell.StamperII@milwaukee.gov>; Perez, Jose <JoseG.Perez@milwaukee.gov>; Bauman, Robert <rjbauma@milwaukee.gov>; Lewis, Chantia <Chantia.Lewis@milwaukee.gov>; Spiker, Scott <Scott.Spiker@milwaukee.gov>; Dimitrijevic, Marina <Marina@milwaukee.gov>; Borkowski, Mark <Mark.Borkowski@milwaukee.gov>; Five Mil <5pnamil@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Re: Historic MLK BID #8 Annexation OPPOSITION Petitions & More

As mentioned previously, intimidation and retaliation are really occurring. A long-standing local bar owner in the new annexed territory off 5th & Garfield in Halyard Park, was threatened to be boycotted and have all his business removed by a BID board member, LaMarr Franklin, who is also a board member of the MLKEDC, the developer of the 5 Points lot on the 3300 block on N. MLK Jr. Dr., the day after I submitted petitions. I'm giving you enough details to know the owner's name without saying it because he's scared for his business and wants anonymity. I talked to this owner yesterday, September 18, 2020, and Deshea Agee drove by in a Pewter Jeep, watching us. From there, Deshea Agee then followed me to another business on the 3300 block of N. MLK Jr. Dr. that I went to check on regarding intimidation reports. I let Deshea talk to the owner first and after he left I spoke with the owner for about 15-20 minutes. Deshea was still lurking outside as I walked to my car. Picture and video attached. Please Note: Deshea entered and talked to the business owner sans face mask even with posted signs and after advised by the business owner to put on his mask inside the facility.

Saturday night, September 12, 2020, I had vandalism that occurred at the gallery where some boys smashed my stone bench. While it could've been a random act of vandalism, the same evening a different business owner on the 3600 block of N. MLK Jr. Dr., another who signed the petition against the bid, was robbed and beat up. I had visited this business owner earlier Saturday on September 12, 2020 about signing the petition against the expansion, which he did.

Thursday, September 17, 2020, one of Alderperson Coggs' and Deshea Agee's cronies, LaShawndra Vernon, Executive Director of Artists Working in Education and newest Chair with Deshea AGee to the Bronzeville Advisory Committee, self-posted messages about me on Facebook. Here's the link. Please watch in its entirety.

<https://www.facebook.com/FireyPhoenix777/videos/10157297247447624/?extid=VT08fl32r8LojLTy&d=n>

In case Ms. Vernon's Facebook post gets removed, her post has been recorded and published: <https://youtu.be/8hCwnWj8HbE>

Further, BID board member, Jasmine M. Johnson, and director, Deshea Agee, have also been stalking me on Facebook.

We deserve quality, affordable neighborhoods for our residents, families and small businesses and this is what happens when communities stand up for themselves, hold elected officials and related parties accountable and voice their rights to protect themselves against displacement, self-interest, and corruption. We don't live in a dictatorship or plutocracy. Regardless of these attacks, we're still opposing the bid, will continue to fight against injustice, gentrification, and exploitation of economically vulnerable communities and populations. and are seeking legal.

In Peace,

Fatima Laster  
5 Points Art Gallery & Studios  
5 Points Neighborhood Association - Member

On Sep 16, 2020, at 8:56 PM, 5 Points Art Gallery & Studios LLC <[5pointsartgalleryandstudios@gmail.com](mailto:5pointsartgalleryandstudios@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear City Planning Commission:

We fear that we will receive retaliation for expressing our opposition, concerns, and rights as citizens. Intimidation has already been tried. But alas, we still push forward saying no to the bid expansion. Additional opposition petitions attached. More to come.

Can you please provide the following documents that pre-date your July 16, 2020 certified bid annexation notification? Per MLK BID Executive Director, Deshea Agee, "There is no record responsive to this request".

- List of parties who requested the bid annexation from the annexed areas.
- Attendance list of all of the expansion meetings.
- A list of the businesses north of Locust up to and including all of the businesses in the proposed expanded boundaries and future expanded boundaries as this is a yearly renewal process.
- Documentation of the signatures of the businesses that stated their opposition.
- The copy of the letter sent to residents and the listing of addresses.

Further, can we please receive the certified mailing list of all the entities notified about this expansion who live and work within 200ft of this historic bid district as required per Article V of the City Planning Commission for, both, the original and revised maps?

It appears as if we're fighting off something that is illegally taking place and being forced through and at the expense of people's livelihoods and lives.

Respectfully,

Fatima Laster and 5PNA

On Tue, Sep 15, 2020 at 11:54 PM 5 Points Art Gallery & Studios LLC

<[5pointsartgalleryandstudios@gmail.com](mailto:5pointsartgalleryandstudios@gmail.com)> wrote:

Dear City Planning Commission:

We are writing to demand the denial of the Historic Martin Luther King Jr. BID #8 (“MLK BID”) annexation and appeal any motions passed in its favor previously and henceforth.

Residents, small businesses, and other stakeholders in and near the proposed Historic MLK BID #8 are not in favor of the BID or its annexation, yet have no voice or vote in the process. There has been no transparency, outright lying, bullying, gerrymandering, and behaviors distinctly akin to voter suppression being enacted by the MLK BID and Alderperson Milele Coggs upon being forced into this annexation process. The above actions alone are aligned with corruption.

We, the 5 Points community, as well as the southern and western annexed areas, vehemently oppose any privatization of our public spaces and services. The city is responsible for providing these necessary services. Charging for the duplication of these services is criminal.

The MLK BID provides no value. It only makes the powerful more powerful by excluding residents and renters, commercial and residential alike, from all decision making processes surrounding their lives. The MLK Bid caters to the financial and political elite, including its own board members, who are actively displacing indigenous communities for self-serving capital gains.

Gentrification is rampant in these subject areas and it’s being consciously paraded via trolley tours and forthcoming streetcars under the colluded initiatives of Alderperson Milele Coggs, the MLK BID Executive Director, Deshea Agee, and the entire bid board. The unjustifiable and drastically rising property taxes is the latest affliction decimating neighborhoods, ironically created in response to historical redlining, ergo Halyard Park. Initiating on September 11, 2020, Milele Cogg’s “Citizens Anti-Displacement Advisory Committee” was created as a superficial cover up to her community-effacing behavior. This committee is as contradictory to her political behavior as Deshea Agee’s testimonies in the public hearings dated August 17, 2020 and September 9, 2020, in which, according to both parties, residents don’t matter and won’t be affected. Based on research, this is poppycock. Neither person has credibility. With this expansion 5 Points and Hillside will be the next to go.

Lazy governance and greed are the motivating factors behind this forcibly rushed bid expansion, not the elevation of communities and business development. Ever since the expressed opposition on July 25, 2020 and the circulated written petitions on July 27, 2020, the MLK BID and Alderperson have tried to silence us, write us out of the bid plan to reduce our voice and votes, and scurried to accumulate written support they claimed to already have. Any additional

opposers were written out of the annexed bid territory under the same strategy. See the attached map revisions. When asked to supply documentation of the [falsified] community meetings the BID claimed it hosted along with opposing petitions, Deshea Agee's only response was "There is no record responsive to this request." See the attached email response. As of September 11, 2020, but received today (September 15, 2020) by a 5 Points business owner, the MLK BID's absurdity reached new heights with a letter purporting that some mysterious Wakesha-based individual is petitioning against expansion and not to sign in threat of lost services and no improvement in our neighborhood. See the attached. The irony behind the letter is that a good percentage of the MLK BID board does not live in this community and is specifically looking to bring outside investors in to change the culture, comforts and landscape of this quaint north side of Milwaukee.

Initial petitions documenting this opposition are attached. More to come.

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<addl bid oppositions 9.16.20.pdf>