



July 19, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council
Finance and Personnel Committee
200 E. Wells St.
City Hall, Room 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Honorable Members of the Milwaukee Common Council:

I submit to you this support letter for the funding allocated for improvements at Victory Over Violence Park at 2615 N Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, as part of the Stronger Summer Plan. Victory Over Violence Park carries a strong tradition as a place for families to go when dealing with violence. Over the past few years, renovation work has helped to transform the park from a blighted public space into a vibrant, well designed urban park that will be an exceptional community public space. Although investments and work has occurred that removed old railroad ties and the old stage, dead trees, and improvements to the walking paths, additional investment is needed to make this nearly one acre parcel the best urban park on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

Planned improvements include a new stage, benches, trash receptacles, lighting and solar bollards. In addition, improvements and installation of new walking paths to make them accessible, accessible game tables, and removal of berms are also planned along with more native plantings. A future phase includes a shipping container for storage. Some key investments that helped with the park has come from Historic King Drive BID #8, AARP, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Bader Philanthropies Inc., and Sweetwater Foundation.

Victory Over Violence Park is envisioned to be a place for families and the public to come in the neighborhood for events and to discuss violence prevention, and healing in our community. The park was created by Jeanette Simpson Robinson for this purpose. The funds for Victory Over Violence Park that are included within the Stronger Summer Plan will be instrumental in bringing the vision of an improved Victory Over Violence Park to life. We believe this park will be a space for.

For these reasons stated, we ask that you to approve the funding for Victory Over Violence Park and the Stronger Summer Plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana Wilkinson".

Diana Wilkinson,
Business and Outreach Coordinator