

March 4, 2026

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my staunch support for Mayor Johnson's appointment of Danielle Rodriguez to lead the Department of Administration (DOA).

I have known Ms. Rodriguez for three years, through my role as Director of the Wisconsin Certified Public Manager (WI-CPM) program (UW-Madison-Extension). We initially met when she served as the keynote speaker for the WI-CPM East Cohort graduation in 2024. At that time, I was struck by her immediate connection with the WI-CPM East students, who worked across various City of Milwaukee departments and other municipalities, despite having just met most of them. Perhaps this is why the WI-CPM East students selected and asked her to speak.

Our paths crossed again in August 2025 when the City asked Ms. Rodriguez to take part as a judge and graduation speaker for the inaugural Milwaukee Executive Training Cohort. She generously shared her management perspective and wisdom with the group. Her feedback on the five group project presentations was a terrific blend of astute observation, humor, and sage advice. Her impact was so significant that she was asked to reprise this role for the second Milwaukee Executive Training Cohort graduation last November.

Impressed by her experience, collaborative leadership style, and strong vision for management and operations, I later asked her to teach two WI-CPM classes: "Time and Stress Management Techniques" and "Building Effective Teams in the Public Sector." When we met to discuss the class curriculum, my earlier observations of her knowledge, capabilities, and personality were thoroughly confirmed. I found her to be an inveterate reader, an exceptional listener, having a genuine curiosity about people, and she views every interaction as a learning opportunity. As well as a professional who is deeply devoted to public sector service.

Danielle is a thoughtful, collaborative leader who intimately understands municipal operations and is deeply committed to strengthening public service. I believe she is exceptionally well prepared to lead the DOA and will serve the City of Milwaukee with integrity and competence.

I respectfully encourage your favorable consideration of her appointment.

Kind regards,



Daniel Foth, JD