

City Plan Commission  
Stephanie Bloomingdale, Chair  
City of Milwaukee  
809 North Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

June 2, 2025

Chairwoman Bloomingdale,

As part of the 1000 Friends of Wisconsin's Together for Homes Coalition, I am pleased to share my strong support for the Housing Element plan.

I grew up in Shorewood, spent six years in Madison while in college and working, and moved back to Milwaukee in 2018. Many of my friends stayed in Madison, went to bigger cities on the east coast or pacific northwest, and a few returned or remained in the Milwaukee area. I've been a renter in the Third Ward, Lower East Side, Riverwest, and now Bayview. I've lived in a renovated office building, a 20-unit multifamily from the early 1900s, and two duplexes. Each time I've moved, it has been to find a unit that is not more than 30% of my income, which was especially hard when I was a full-time student again between 2021 and 2023. As I (hopefully) prepare to buy my first home in the next five to ten years, I want to buy in the City of Milwaukee, raise children, and grow old here.

The current zoning policies that dictate our residential built environment are too restrictive to restore and create the kind of housing that gives sufficient options to foster community and generational wealth in all areas of the city, not just a few for a select few. Currently, our residential zoning policy upholds the status quo of zoning more common in the late 20<sup>th</sup>, not 21<sup>st</sup> century. We don't have enough rental and owner-occupied units that would ensure young adults, families, and seniors have access to non-rent burdensome housing.

I know from my experience as a renter for seven years in Milwaukee and witnessing dozens of my peers struggle to find affordable rentals and first-time homes, the status quo isn't working. At least five friends have opted for more affordable single family to less than ten-unit residences outside of the city within the county.

I strongly recommend the City Plan Commission approve the Housing Element. I am deeply appreciative of the residents, community groups, advisory committee members, elected officials, and staff who have formed the housing plan we see today. Its intra-governmental lens is a shift in city policy we must continue. Now is the time to pass this plan through our city legislative bodies and continue meaningful, difficult conversations about how to ensure housing is accessible to all Milwaukee residents now and for generations to come.

Thank you,

Jenny Tasse  
District 14 resident