



*African American Chamber of Commerce
Of Greater Milwaukee
6203 West Capitol Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216
Phone: (414) 462-9450 • FAX: (414) 462-9452*

February 3, 2006

Ald. Michael S. D'Amato, Chair
Zoning, Neighborhoods & development

Re: File No. 051108 RiverBend Place Project/Manpower

- Thank you for allowing the African American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) of Greater Milwaukee to speak about the above matter on Tuesday, January 31, 2006.
- My name is Dester Martin, and I am the Chairman of the AACC's Executive Committee.
- The AACC offers its full support with encouragement for the above mentioned project due to the fact that Manpower has been a good Corporate citizen that will bring jobs to the City of Milwaukee (which is needed), along with the construction job sites opportunities.
- We view Mr. Gary Grunau's RiverBend Place projects as an opportunity for the African American and other minority business owners to tap into, and use to our advantages for economic development opportunities.
- This is a chance for businesses here in our city to link ourselves to the downtown area, and build momentum that can lead to development well beyond those areas. I am reminded of the Jewel Osco at Humboldt and North where this development inspired several other major projects. Take a look at the area now!
- I encourage our elected officials to support this project and create opportunities for the disadvantaged business community to be a major part of this development where taxpayers' dollars are being used.

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- This initiative reminds many in the African American business community of the Atlanta, Georgia, airport building process where the elected officials mandated the inclusion of their disadvantaged business citizens.
- On behalf of business development that will support opportunities for the central city and south side of Milwaukee, a \$500,000.00 grant should be made available for training, monitoring and economic development support. The Hispanic and the African American Chambers could be a strong starting point of inclusion that will support this development from start to finish, and that could hire consultants, which will be a win-win for the developer and the community at large.
- Progress is the main concern of the membership of the Chambers. This project could plant the needed seeds so that business development can be the beneficiary, not the in-house hired consultants.
- We strongly recommend that 25% MBE, DBE participation be maintained for this project to show the citizens of Milwaukee that progress can be made.
- Our welcome mat goes out to Gary Grunau and the developing partners for their vision in putting this deal together.
- We have placed our faith and our elected officials for business development support.
- If additional support information or clarification is needed, please do not hesitate to call the Chamber.

Thank you,

Cc: Milwaukee Common Council Members

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