



March 23, 2026

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong and wholehearted support for the nomination of Karin Tyler to serve as Commissioner. Since meeting Karin in 2023 through HIR Wellness Institute's collaboration with the Office of Community Wellness & Safety during the Summer of Healing initiative, I have witnessed firsthand her integrity, commitment, and deeply community-centered leadership.

Karin has consistently shown up for the people our communities serve—not only in vision, but in action. Her leadership reflects a mission that extends far beyond the responsibilities of a role; it is rooted in a genuine commitment to the health, safety, and wellbeing of youth, families, and neighborhoods across Milwaukee. From working alongside partners on the ground, to leading a dedicated team, to advocating for community needs in front of public officials, she approaches every responsibility with care, dignity, and accountability.

The impact of the Summer of Healing initiative is a powerful example of her leadership in action. Through this partnership, we have been able to bridge critical gaps in services and strengthen collaboration among incredible agencies across the city. The initiative has not only strengthened partnerships, but has also helped expand access to life-saving mental health and wellness services for youth and families. Each summer, our program alone serves more than 100 youth over the course of 10 weeks through structured mental health and wellness programming—support that would not be possible without the leadership and commitment demonstrated by Karin and her team.

What stands out most is that Karin's partnership goes beyond supporting programs in name. She has taken the time to bring her team to meet with us, learn about our work firsthand, and collaborate in meaningful ways. She recognizes the potential of community-based programs to address the real needs within our neighborhoods, and she actively supports innovative approaches that strengthen access to care and create lasting impact. As a partner organization, we have felt seen, supported, and valued—and it is clear that she brings this same level of respect and commitment to the many agencies she works alongside.

Karin's long-standing service with the Office since 2008, including her leadership as Interim Director over the past several years, reflects both stability and forward-thinking vision. The Mayor's decision to nominate her as the next Commissioner reflects the type of leadership our city needs—someone who listens, builds trust, strengthens partnerships, and creates space for meaningful and lasting change.



I have full confidence in Karin’s leadership. I trust her judgment, her integrity, and her ability to bring together diverse partners, perspectives, and visions for what it means to serve and heal our city. She has the experience, the compassion, and the leadership presence needed to continue expanding opportunities for collaboration and strengthening the systems that support our communities.

I respectfully and enthusiastically support her nomination as Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Lea S. Denny, Dr. h.c., MS, LPC, NCC, NMT  
Chief Executive Officer & Founder  
HIR Wellness Institute