July 1, 2024

Dear Common Council Members:

From 1991 to 2008, I was a Senior CPD Representative in the Community Planning and Development Office (CPD) in the Wisconsin Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Following my retirement in 2008, I began a consulting practice, Community Planning and Development Advisors (CPDA), and continue today as a consultant for the Milwaukee County Office of Housing.

I met Karen Gotzler when Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin (UEDA) submitted an application to provide technical assistance through our local HUD CPD office. Selected technical assistance providers worked with us under a cooperation agreement to assist community development organizations in our jurisdiction. In my role as the supervisor of the technical assistance contractors, I worked with Karen on several projects, assisting local nonprofits with organizational and financial assessments, education, monitoring and mentoring to improve their operations. One of the more successful and impactful projects was the Rapid Response Team that worked with non-profit organizations in crisis.

Following retirement, Community Planning and Development Advisors (a consulting firm in which I was a partner) collaborated with Urban Strategies (a consulting firm in which she was a partner) on a range of projects with Participating Jurisdictions (PJs) and Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) around the Midwest.

In these projects, Karen's work was respected by our team as well as the organizations receiving her technical assistance. She is a highly motivated and capable leader and team member.

Now with her knowledge of PHAs and her assessments and consulting skills, Karen Gotzler would be an excellent choice as a Commissioner for the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee. I am confident that she can make a strong contribution to the work of HACM.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

DocuSigned by:

Marcia Bergeson

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Marcia Bergeson, Owner/Director, CPDA
mjbcpda13@gmail.com