

October 30, 2020

Sally Peltz
Alderman Bob Bauman
Marion Clendenen-Acosta
Matthew Jarosz

Patricia Keating Kahn
Ann Pieper-Eisenbrown

[*Sent electronically*]

Dear Chair Sally Peltz and Members of the Milwaukee Historic Preservation Commission,

I wanted to connect with the Commission directly to share how Children's Wisconsin plans to better serve more families on the south side of Milwaukee by offering additional mental and behavioral health, primary and dental care services. As you are aware, our current proposal to expand those services involves the vacant Forest Home Library at 1432 W. Forest Home Ave. in the 12th aldermanic district.

The proposed clinic would serve a community with one of the highest densities of children in the state of Wisconsin. Many of the families living in this area often bring kids to Children's Emergency Department for non-emergent issues during the day. We believe families and their children would be best served through a primary care visit or an urgent care visit in the neighborhood where they live.

The former library is an ideal location for families as it is located close to numerous schools, on a bus line and provides ample parking. To accommodate the additional services, the former library would need to be demolished and a new 18,000-square-foot clinic would be built. Children's Wisconsin and the developer spent six months exploring the possibility of renovating the former library, but the existing condition, size and construction of the building does not make it possible.

For more than 20 years, Children's Wisconsin has operated an urgent care clinic at the Sixteenth Street Community Health Center. Children's Wisconsin has closed that urgent care as the space is not able to accommodate new care guidelines due to COVID-19. Before the closure, this location was one of the busiest of all of Children's Wisconsin urgent care locations. In addition to urgent care, Children's Wisconsin serves the near south side with school nurses, two community navigators, as well as many residents who are members of various health insurance plans Children's Wisconsin offers through Children's Community Health Plan.

With the partnership of Alderman José Pérez and the support of existing and new patient families, we plan to bring care closer to home for our neighbors in the near south side of Milwaukee and increase access to these vital services so critically needed in this community.

Children's and our developer look forward to engaging with the Commission and other city committees to discuss the plans and address questions. I hope that we are able to earn the support of the Commission and that we are able to move forward on this important proposal.

Sincerely,

Peggy Troy
President & CEO, Children's Wisconsin

Reggie Gray

