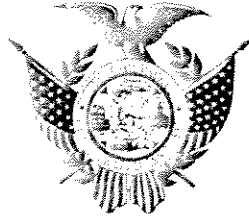




WILLIE L. HINES, JR.



COMMON COUNCIL PRESIDENT
ALDERMAN, 15TH DISTRICT

September 11, 2006

Commissioner Richard "Rocky" Marcoux
Department of City Development
809 North Broadway

Dear Mr. Marcoux:

I have followed with great interest the development, by your staff, of a process for the receipt and preliminary evaluation of proposals to create Tax Increment Districts (TIDs) in the City of Milwaukee. Let me say that I share your desire to make this, as all development processes, as user-friendly as possible and I appreciate the hard work that has already been done to create millions of dollars in new property value.

I am concerned, however, that this new application process not be perceived – within or without City government – as a final decision-point in the TID creation process. Several business people have already contacted me with questions regarding the process. While the role of Department of City Development (DCD) staff is vital in evaluating all TID proposals, state statutes (cf. s. 66.1105(4)(g)) clearly assign final responsibility for the approval of the TIDs themselves to the Mayor and Common Council. I further have no doubt of the Common Council's authority to direct, by resolution, that the staff of the DCD prepare the necessary instruments for the creation of a TID.

Developers large and small must know that, if necessary, they have a means, through their elected officials, to contribute to the long-term well being of the City without obstruction from what can be perceived as an arbitrary bureaucratic process. I trust that neither you personally nor anyone within the DCD would offer any impression to the contrary.

The Common Council and the administration have a common interest in the economic betterment of this city. I look forward to continuing to work with you in that spirit.

Sincerely,

WILLIE L. HINES, JR.
Alderman, 15th District
Common Council President

WLH:dh

cc: Alderman D'Amato



Department of City Development

Housing Authority
Redevelopment Authority
City Plan Commission
Historic Preservation Commission
NIDC

Rocky Marcoux
Commissioner

Martha L. Brown
Deputy Commissioner

October 2, 2006

Alderman Willie Hines, Jr.
President, Milwaukee Common Council
City of Milwaukee
City Hall, Room 205

Dear President Hines:

I am writing to confirm receipt of your letter dated September 11, 2006, regarding the Department of City Development's (DCD) process for reviewing potential Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) projects.

As you know, in response to your letter, Joel Brennan, Jim Scherer and Allison Rozek of my Department met with you on September 27th. I understand that several matters were discussed and that you and DCD staff agreed that any confusion on TIF applications and TIF projects can often be quickly cleared up with better communication between the Department and Common Council members. We are committed to ensuring that stronger communication takes place and have taken immediate steps as a Department to make local Aldermen better aware of projects proposed in their districts and the careful review of those projects that has been undertaken by our economic development team.

Thank you for taking the time to share some of your perspective on the TIF process with me and my staff, who are on the frontlines dealing with these projects every day. I believe that conversations like the one you had with DCD staff last week go a long way toward making the links between the Barrett Administration and your Common Council even stronger.

I know that you share my commitment to thoroughly reviewing projects and using Tax Incremental Financing to grow and strengthen the city, and I look forward to continuing our work together.

Sincerely,

Rocky Marcoux
Commissioner