

February 14, 2025

Dear Mayor Johnson and Common Council,

The Milwaukee Teachers' Education Association, representing more than 5,600 public education workers in Milwaukee Public Schools, urges you to delay NCG Hospitality's request for a zoning change to develop the Moxy Hotel until it stops its union busting efforts at the Trade Hotel and settles its dispute with the Milwaukee Area Service and Hospitality Workers Union (MASH).

During this past year workers employed at the Trade Hotel by NCG Hospitality sought to form a union with MASH. NCG should have followed the lead of other employers in the Deer District and the advice of the Common Council to remain neutral, recognizing MASH based on a card count. Instead NCG chose to weaponize the National Labor Relations Board process by employing bureaucratic delays, procedural hassles, lies and deception in a clear attempt to undermine their employees' desire for union representation. NCG Hospitality turned what should have been a free and fair election into a mockery of democracy. In the process, it violated federal laws designed to safeguard workers' rights. As a result, NCG Hospitality is under an on- going federal investigation for these violations.

Now NCG Hospitality is asking the city to reward them for their anti-worker behavior by approving a zoning change needed for a new hotel, the Moxy.

Milwaukee leaders such as yourselves, charged with facilitating the health and welfare of our community, should not tolerate union-busting and lawbreaking. We urge you to pause consideration of NCG's zoning request until its case in front of the National Labor Relations Board is resolved or the company settles with MASH. No company subject to an ongoing, serious federal investigation should be considered for project approval by the city.

It is critical that our elected local leaders support workers whenever they organize unions. Non-union work in the service industry, particularly in hospitality, pays poverty wages without any benefits, with insecure employment, and oftentimes unhealthy and unsafe workplaces. Workers represented by unions earn better wages than their non-union counterparts, enjoy more job security and certainty in scheduling, providing for more stable employment. Union members are far more likely to have healthcare and retirement benefits and have safer workplaces and better working conditions than those without union contracts. Unionized workers buy and maintain homes, patronize city businesses, and pay taxes. They are the engines of economic growth.

We implore you to delay consideration of any new development by NCG Hospitality until they settle their labor dispute with MASH.

Sincerely,

Ingrid Walker-Henry  
President, MTEA