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Via email: jowcza@milwaukee.gov

November 7, 2025

City Clerk Jim Owczarski
City of Milwaukee
200 E Wells St
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Subject: Support for File 251187 – Milwaukee Homebuyer Fund and Down Payment Assistance Program

Dear City Clerk Owczarski,

The Community Development Alliance enthusiastically supports File 251187, the substitute resolution establishing the Milwaukee Homebuyer Fund and transferring \$800,000 to support the Down Payment Assistance (DPA) Program.

The DPA Program represents a critical investment in Milwaukee's future. Since its inception, the Down program has helped over 1,100 low- and moderate-income families achieve the dream of homeownership. The creation of a dedicated capital account within the Department of City Development ensures that these efforts will continue with greater transparency, flexibility, and impact.

We deeply appreciate the thoughtful compromise reached between Common Council members and the Administration. Their responsiveness to public input and recognition of the urgent need for expanded homebuyer support reflects a shared commitment to equitable housing opportunities across our city. Thank you specifically to Sponsors Alderman Russell Stamper and Alderman Peter Burgelis, as well as Finance Chair Marina Dimitrijevic for her sponsorship of previous amendments and her stewardship throughout the process.

The CDA believes that homeownership is a cornerstone of community stability and generational wealth. Expanding access through down payment assistance is one of the most effective tools we have to close racial and economic homeownership gaps. We commend the City for prioritizing this work and urge adoption of File 251187.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to Milwaukee's residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teig Whaley-Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Teig Whaley-Smith
Chief Alliance Executive

CC: Chris Lee, Finance Committee Clerk
Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Finance Committee Chair
Ald. Russell Stamper & Ald. Peter Burgelis, Co-Sponsors