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KHALIF J. RAINEY
ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

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ALDERMAN, 7TH DISTRICT

March 4th 2022

Sharon Robinson
Director
Department of Administration
City Hall
200 East Wells Street
Room 606
Milwaukee, WI. 53202

Dear Sharon,

RE: Request to Partner on Meeting the Demand for CDL Drivers

I am interested in learning more about existing local, state, and federal resources available for city residents to receive training in the commercial truck industry.

As you may know, there is a very high demand for CDL Drivers. The Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development ranked Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, 2nd in their list of long term WDA2 Hot Jobs for 2018 to 2028 with 644 openings a year.

We have partners such as WRTP BIG STEP, MATC, DPW, and Tuckers Truck Driving School who make a good effort in training CDL Drivers. As a private corporation, Tuckers Truck Driving School has created a significant niche in training CDL Drivers – particularly from our Communities of Color.

Sadly, there are very few established organizations (such as those listed above), that offer training opportunities. Most corporations such as Sysco, GoRiteway, and more often have to conduct the training themselves. In addition, obtaining a CDL permit can be expensive and requires a candidate to have no criminal record, which means Returning Citizens can neither afford nor obtain the opportunity to be CDL Drivers – even after serving their term. Needless to say, the expense and time involved in getting a CDL permit means many Black and Brown people, disproportionately excluded from economic prospects, are kept way from or are unaware about this opportunity.

I would like to propose a broad city-wide collaboration of these existing providers with DOA, to actively seek funding from ARPA and Infrastructure Bills to expand a CDL workforce pipeline that includes paid training and work experience for eligible job seekers. Each partner has capacity for a portion of this CDL pipeline, and together can create economies of scale in opening up greater opportunities for our residents. Let me know when DOA can begin to plan for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Khalif J. Rainey'.

Alderman Khalif J. Rainey
Chairperson - Community & Economic Development

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