



December 14, 2010

Ald. Michael J. Murphy  
10th District  
Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee  
Common Council – City of Milwaukee  
City Hall  
Room 205  
200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Alderman Murphy:

The Milwaukee Continuum of Care is a 100 + member coalition of shelters, homeless service providers, faith-based, public and private members that work together on issues and opportunities around the issue of homelessness. The Milwaukee Continuum of Care is proud to support the proposed substitute ordinance relating to zoning regulations for transitional housing and permanent supportive housing as File Number 100848.

In February of 2010, the Milwaukee Continuum of Care released its 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness (the Plan). Permanent housing is one of the four pillars to end homelessness in Milwaukee contained within the Plan which calls for the development of 1260 new permanent supportive housing units within 10 years.

This Plan was presented to both the City of Milwaukee Common Council and the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors. The County Board approved the Plan on March 18 as File 10-108. As you know, by a vote of 14 to 0, on September 21, 2010, the Common Council adopted a resolution endorsing the Plan's principles and goals. The resolution also expressed the City's commitment to "assist in the implementation of the plan and to continue to provide funding for housing for the homeless". Signifying his support, Mayor Tom Barrett signed the resolution on September 24, 2010.

The proposed City of Milwaukee Code of Ordinance zoning changes contained in File Number 100848 are the direct result of the direction that the Common Council has provided on this very important issue. These regulations will establish a more straight-forward process for the development and operation of both transitional and permanent supportive housing units by quality supportive housing providers. In turn, a vulnerable population that is generally homeless or at risk of homelessness and who has mental health conditions or other disabilities will have the opportunity to benefit from safe and affordable housing and services that will assist them to live independently.

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The increased public and private sector focus on the development of much needed and long awaited permanent supportive housing units was assisted by the attached 2006 series of articles by Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter Meg Kissinger. These articles helped bring to light the alarming need for safe and supportive environments for people who have both mental health conditions and are homeless.

Many positive steps have already been taken, including the joint establishment by the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County of the Commission on Supportive Housing. In addition, 163 permanent supportive housing units have already been developed with plans to add 155 more for a total of 318 units since the articles were published. Although we are well on our way to achieving the goals of the Plan, our work is not done.

The Milwaukee Continuum of Care fully supports the proposed zoning ordinance changes. We urge you as a member of the Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee to also approve the proposed zoning regulations. We believe that these regulations are an excellent step forward in helping to provide safe and supportive environments that people can call home – and in fulfilling the goals endorsed by the Common Council.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 414-274-2546.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan McCarthy", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan McCarthy  
Milwaukee Continuum of Care Co-Chair  
Towne Investments  
710 N. Plankinton Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53203

DM:kl  
Attachments



**MILWAUKEE**

Continuum of Care

## Member Organizations

American Red Cross  
Transitional Living Services  
Milwaukee County Housing  
Division  
The Gathering of Southeastern  
Wisconsin  
Guest House of Milwaukee, Inc.  
Wisconsin Community Services  
Cathedral Center  
City Transformation, Ltd.  
National Development Council–  
Project Restore  
Interfaith Conference of  
Milwaukee  
My Home Your Home, Inc.  
Housing Trust Fund of  
Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County Behavioral  
Health Division  
National Association of Black  
Veterans  
Milwaukee County Health  
Programs  
United Way of Greater  
Milwaukee  
St. Aemilian-Lakeside, Inc.  
Greater Milwaukee Foundation  
AIDS Resource Center of  
Wisconsin  
LISC  
Center for Veterans Issues, Ltd.  
Greater Milwaukee Committee  
Hope House of Milwaukee, Inc.  
Mercy Lakeside Housing  
Walker’s Point Youth and  
Family Center  
Heartland Housing  
YWCA of Greater Milwaukee  
Gorman and Company  
The Salvation Army  
Medical College of Wisconsin  
La Causa, Inc.  
Disability Rights Wisconsin  
Clement J. Zablocki VA  
Medical Center

Independence First  
Meta House, Inc.  
Urban Economic Development  
Association  
St. Ben’s Community Meal  
Our Safe Place  
2-1-1 at IMPACT  
Milwaukee Careers Cooperative  
Community Advocates  
Housing Resources  
Sojourner Family Peace Center  
Wisconsin Nazarene  
Compassionate Center  
Wisconsin Department of  
Commerce  
Hope Street Ministry  
Word of Hope Ministries  
Crisis Resource Center  
City of West Allis Housing  
Division  
Helen Bader Foundation  
Milwaukee County Disability  
Services Division  
Lutheran Social Services  
Milwaukee County Department  
on Aging  
House of Lydia  
Housing Authority of the City of  
Milwaukee  
Mov’n Out  
Milwaukee Public Schools  
For the Empowerment of  
Women  
Milwaukee Police Department  
Recovery Network  
Workforce Investment Board of  
Milwaukee  
National Association for the  
Mentally Ill  
Day Star, Inc.  
American Legion  
Hunger Task Force of  
Milwaukee  
Common Bond Communities  
Legal Action of Wisconsin

Medical Society of Wisconsin  
Milwaukee Rescue Mission–  
Safe Harbor  
Genesis Building Better Lives  
Milwaukee Rescue Mission–  
Joy House  
Cornerstone Counseling  
St. Catherine Residence  
Tieg Whaley Smith  
Cardinal Capital Housing  
Development  
Mary Neubauer  
UMOS TANF Agency  
Healthcare for the Homeless  
Living Proof Homeless Support  
Group  
Vets Helping Vets Consumer  
Group  
Repairers of the Breach  
St. Vincent de Paul Society  
Mental Health America  
Marquette University  
SET Ministry  
Faith Harvest  
Milwaukee Development Group  
Social Security Administration  
Zilber Development  
The Counseling Center of  
Milwaukee, Inc.–Pathfinders  
Community Relations–Social  
Development Commission  
City of Wauwatosa Community  
Development Department  
City of Milwaukee Community  
Development Grants  
Department  
Center for Urban Initiatives and  
Research, University of  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Wisconsin Housing and  
Economic Development  
Authority  
Community Advocates–  
Milwaukee Women’s Center