

Elmer, Linda

From: Barry Mandel <bmandel@mandelgroup.com>
Sent: Monday, June 26, 2023 9:22 AM
To: Bauman, Robert
Cc: Johnson, Cavalier; Freckmann, Olivia; david.crowley@milwaukeecountywi.gov; Elmer, Linda; Perez, Jose
Subject: Sales Tax

Dear Ald. Bauman,

We have been friends for as long as I can remember, well before you became an Alderman in the district in which I live. For others that may read this letter and don't know, we have also worked together over three decades to make Milwaukee a better place.

Mandel Group, Inc. (or affiliates) has invested well over a billion dollars in residential and commercial developments in the City and Milwaukee County. We have created thousands of jobs over the past three decades and generated a substantial amount of tax base for our City and County. We have attracted thousands of people who live in our communities that provide philanthropic dollars to our community.

I note this not to take credit for any of what has been done in concert with the City and County. Unfortunately, with all our efforts, and the contributions of so many others, it is simply not enough to fix the fiscal crisis that the City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee County faces.

I can well understand the frustration and perhaps, anger that may be felt as a result of the state legislation and conditions that have been placed on sales tax authorization. Nevertheless, Milwaukee City and County need this sales tax legislation for its financial viability and future growth.

There is a time and a place to challenge the other parts of the state legislation. It is, however, "**NOW IMPERATIVE**" that we focus on approving the sales tax for Milwaukee. It is our lifeline.

Financial stability is essential. Without it, all past efforts will be for naught, and our City and County will certainly face an accelerated decline for the residents and businesses within its borders.

I URGE YOU to support the sales tax legislation.

Sincerely,

Barry Mandel

Barry Mandel Chair & Chief Executive Officer

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