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July 18, 2024

Chair Stephanie Bloomingdale  
City Plan Commission  
City of Milwaukee  
809 North Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Chair Bloomingdale and members of the City Plan Commission,

The Community Development Alliance (CDA) is excited that we as a community can take the next step in the march towards fair housing by getting rid of the racist zoning codes put into place in the 1950s. We strongly recommend adoption of Growing MKE as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan to establish a collective vision for how housing development can advance Milwaukee's goals for housing choice, equity, affordability, economic development, and climate resilience. CDA's support is not just from staff of CDA, but also by a unanimous vote of the CDA Board of Directors. We also polled our alliance members, and with nearly 60 allies participating in our last meeting, 98% of allies supported Growing MKE.

Inventory, neighborhood choice, and displacement are all racial equity issues that need to be addressed in Milwaukee.

- **Inventory is a racial equity issue** because when inventory is restricted housing prices go up and people of color bear the brunt of that cost burden.
- **Neighborhood choice is a racial equity issue** because historical zoning has restricted neighborhood choice by limiting certain types of housing in certain neighborhoods.
- **Displacement is a racial equity issue** because if high demand neighborhoods are not allowed to grow upwards, they will grow outwards and displace people of color from their own neighborhoods.

Inventory, neighborhood choice, and displacement are all addressed in the policy changes proposed in growing MKE. These issues are central to our work at CDA. Adopting Growing MKE will create a strong framework for the City to utilize its land use, zoning, and housing policy tools to meet the changing housing needs of our City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Teig Whaley-Smith".

Teig Whaley-Smith  
Chief Alliance Executive