



July 17, 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,

Supporting housing growth and choice is critical to Milwaukee's future. Independence First encourages the Commission to recommend adopting Growing MKE as part of the City's Comprehensive Plan to enhance housing choice, equity, affordability, economic development, and climate resilience.

At Independence First, a non-profit serving persons with disabilities in the Milwaukee area, we frequently receive calls from individuals seeking affordable and accessible housing options, ranging from apartments to single-family homes. We have long advocated for more accessible, affordable, and decent housing.

Growing MKE aligns with our goals of community integration for people with disabilities and will provide a strong foundation for this work. It will create more housing units, offering diverse and affordable options. The plan's emphasis on density, including triplexes, four-plexes, and small apartment buildings, ensures a range of accessible units due to Wisconsin's Open Housing Law and the Federal Fair Housing Act.

Adopting Growing MKE will enable the City to effectively use its land use, zoning, and housing policies to meet evolving housing needs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marci Boucher'.

Marci Boucher  
President and CEO