



May 10, 2024

Chair Stephanie Bloomingdale
City Plan Commission
City of Milwaukee
809 North Broadway
Milwaukee, WI 53232

Dear Chair Bloomingdale and members of the City Plan Commission,

Supporting housing growth and choice are critical to the future of our city. I encourage the City Plan Commission to vote to 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.

These issues are central to our work at Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity. Over 40 years we have built or rehabbed over 700 homes to provide homeownership opportunities primarily for people of color. By 2028 our goals are to double the number of families served with a goal of building and providing homeownership opportunities for 40 families per year.

The recommendations contained within Growing MKE are aligned with our goals and will provide strong foundation for this important work. The plan prepares the City of Milwaukee to be ready for future growth by providing additional clarity and flexibility as to the types and styles of homes that can be built by Habitat and other developers. We also see some immediate wins for Habitat as we've reviewed the more detailed zoning regulation possibilities. With the minimum shortage of new homes and apartments in the metro area being greater than 20K units smoothing the path for developers will pay long term results.

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 "B. Sonderman".

Brian Sonderman
CEO

Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity