

July 25, 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,

I'm writing on behalf of the Emerging Developer Roundtable to show our support for the Growing MKE initiative. We think these changes are really important for our community and align with our mission to promote equitable and sustainable development in Milwaukee.

Racial Equity Focus: The Growing MKE initiative addresses essential racial equity issues related to housing inventory, neighborhood choice, and displacement. Limited housing inventory drives up costs, which disproportionately impacts people of color. Updating zoning laws will ensure everyone has the opportunity to live in the neighborhood of their choice. Allowing neighborhoods to grow upwards rather than outwards will help prevent the displacement of long-standing residents.

Housing Costs Focus: As developers, we see firsthand how current policies that restrict housing diversity lead to higher costs and fewer housing options. The proposed changes will enable us to create more affordable and varied housing, benefiting the entire community and helping to control rising housing costs.

Engagement Focus: The resident engagement in the Growing MKE initiative has been impressive. With community meetings, office hours, focus groups, and pop-up engagements, the City and its partners have ensured that residents' voices were heard and incorporated into the final draft. This inclusive approach has resulted in a plan that truly reflects the community's needs.

We encourage the City to move forward with the Growing MKE initiative and implement the proposed changes.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

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Alex Rodriguez