

## Lee, Chris

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**From:** Melody McCurtis <mmccurtis@metcalfe.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:29 AM  
**To:** planadmin@milwaukee.gov; Lee, Chris  
**Cc:** lamont; Antonio@walnutway.org; fourjttb@yahoo.com; eramirez@mccwi.org; Trisha Young; Borowski, Greg; Markasa Tucker-Harris; Tammie Xiong; tammyrivera@socmilwaukee.org; Stamper II, Russell; Stamper II, Russell; Ellzey, Dameon; Bauman, Robert; Young, Angel; Oatis-McMiller, Glenda; Brostoff, Jonathan; Jackson, Benjamin (CC); Westmoreland, Lamont; Coggs, Milele; Jackson, DiAndre; Zamarripa, JoCasta; Taylor, Larresa; Moore, Sharlen; Towanda; Brittney Taylor; Nick Berkley; Patrice Gransberry; Burgelis, Peter; Perez, Jose; Spiker, Scott; Dimitrijevic, Marina; Mabel Lamb; Danell Cross; Melody McCurtis; bglosson1325@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Request for Date and Time of Voting on Growing MKE Plan  
**Importance:** High

Dear Members of the City Plan Commission,

Firstly, Thank you all for your time and attention last night. Thanks for hearing all the concerns, and views from community members throughout Milwaukee. Although the vote was held, we want to take full advantage of this opportunity.

I am writing to you in my capacity as the Deputy Director and Lead Organizer of a trusted and resident-led community organization (Metcalf Park Community Bridges, INC) with deep expertise in effectively engaging the Metcalfe Park community. We request that you provide the date and time for the upcoming vote on item 2, the proposal to adopt the Growing MKE Plan as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

We want to reiterate our recommendations after last night's session. **We assert that the Growing MKE plan should not be brought up for a vote before the first scheduled City Plan Commission meeting of 2025.** we are committed to creating zoning changes that are reflective of what is best suited for the community. Our recommendations for the Department of City Development are as follows:

- 1. Pause the Approval Process for the Growing MKE Plan:** Immediate action is necessary to prevent the potential disenfranchisement of the communities you serve.
- 2. Initiate a Comprehensive Community Engagement Process:** We propose a six-month period to engage 25% of Milwaukee's population through a co-created strategy led by community-based organizations, ensuring no resident is left behind. This process should include:
  - Updating the survey to reflect the proposed changes of the Growing MKE plan, rather than using generalized questions.

- Conducting various educational sessions on zoning, including its history and current implications.
- Prioritizing resident engagement by allocating a budget to support the capacity of community-based organizations to conduct intentional and effective resident engagement throughout the planning process.

**3. Incorporate Our Feedback into the Revised Plan:** After adequate consultation, gather all feedback and ensure it is visibly integrated into the plan's new draft.

**4. Undertake a Thorough Harm Analysis:** This should detail potential adverse impacts and include clear, actionable measures to mitigate them.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's efforts to hear the concerns and viewpoints of community members regarding the Growing MKE Plan. It is crucial to emphasize the importance of utmost transparency and prioritizing the resident voice and experience in this process. This approach is vital to ensuring the plan reflects the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders.

The Department of City Development has expressed a willingness to engage in additional dialogue with neighborhood groups and residents who have questions about the Growing Plan. **We are eager to participate in these discussions over the next six months and co-create the engagement process Metcalfe Park Community Bridges, and other community-based organizations and community leaders.** As Commissioner Crane has acknowledged, engagement with inner-city communities requires an incredibly different approach. While the City believes they have had extensive engagement with the community, it has become clear that the efficacy and reliability of the data gathered from this engagement are flawed, unreliable and not representative of Milwaukee as whole let alone Metcalfe Park.

Thank you once again for your attention and consideration. We look forward to working together to ensure that the voices of our communities are uplifted and thoroughly reflected in the Growing MKE plan, instilling confidence that the plan serves the best interests of all stakeholders involved.

Sincerely,

Melody McCurtis