



March 14, 2025

Re: File No. 241723 – 2708 W Wisconsin Avenue.

To members of the Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development Committee:

On behalf of Near West Side Partners, I am writing to express my support for **Aurora Health Care's plans to redevelop the former Wisconsin Avenue School** and establish a center that will provide a wide range of programs aimed at empowering individuals and families to achieve physical, mental and social wellness.

For many years, the former Wisconsin Avenue School has been considered a priority redevelopment site for NWSP and the City of Milwaukee. Our collective aim has been to encourage office, hospitality or other complementary job and activity-generating uses for the site. Aurora's plan for the Beacon does just that.

As one of our five, founding anchor institutions, **Aurora Health Care understands our collective vision for the Near West Side** and the transformational and catalytic effect this development will have on the surrounding neighborhood. This mixed-use, community wellness-focused development would continue the momentum generated by Concordia 27, **further NWSP's plans for 27th Street to become a collaborative Health & Wellness Corridor and advance the Near West Side Comprehensive Plan.**

With your support, this hub would bring together key partners with dedicated offices and clinical spaces. Not only will these partners provide resources but they will **create paths for individuals and families to improve their lives** through access to new services in the areas of healthcare, healthy food, dental, legal, and employment. Once redeveloped, this site will bring additional jobs to the Near West Side, accelerating economic development in the neighborhood and boosting the local economy with career opportunities and increased daily visitor traffic.

Furthermore, Aurora's **dedication to maintaining the character of the former Wisconsin Avenue School** aligns with the Comprehensive Plan established for Milwaukee's Near West Side and our subsequent North 27th Street Plan, helping further our combined vision for the Near West Side.

Near West Side Partners is proud to support this proposed Health & Wellness Corridor development by Aurora Health Care and the work they are doing with the City to accomplish this. **We look forward to the ways in which the development will advance our plans and support continued economic growth in Milwaukee.**

Sincerely,

Lindsey St Arnold Bell

Lindsey St Arnold Bell, Executive Director
Near West Side Partners, Inc.