

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE MILWAUKEE BRANCH



2745 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive #203 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

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Jerry Ann Hamilton, President

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TO:

Comm. Council

FROM:

J. A. Hamilton

COMPANY:

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RE:

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FOR REVIEW

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July 29, 2008

Ald. Bob Baumann, Chair
Public Works Committee
200 E. Wells St., Rm. 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ald. Robert Donovan
200 E. Wells St., Rm. 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ald. Joe Dudzik, Vice Chair
200 E. Wells St., Rm. 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ald. Robert Puente
200 E. Wells St., Rm. 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Ald. Willie Wade
200 E. Wells St., Rm. 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: NAACP Opposed to Proposed Water Agreement

Dear Aldermen:

The Milwaukee Branch NAACP opposes the proposed agreement to sell additional water to New Berlin. We request the agreement be amended to provide more equitable benefit to the citizens of Milwaukee.

New Berlin's current water woes are the product of irresponsible development. Undeterred, New Berlin now plans to develop more than 1000 new residences and businesses in the proposed service area. This is highly irresponsible. The City of Milwaukee should be hesitant to aid irresponsible development in the region, particularly where the development threatens to harm the interests of Milwaukee residents.

The lost tax revenue caused by Milwaukee firms relocating to New Berlin will in all likelihood greatly outweigh the negligible benefits to Milwaukee residents. We would like the City of Milwaukee to conduct a thorough study of the costs and benefits of the additional diversion of Lake Michigan water. Such a study should include a calculation of the potential loss of tax revenue to New Berlin as the result of firms and jobs leaving the City of Milwaukee. The study should also outline options available to New Berlin to provide safe water to its current businesses and residents.

We are disturbed that the proposed agreement fails to secure New Berlin's cooperation in increasing affordable housing for all citizens in the region and improving mass transit options (including light rail) in the region.

We ask that the Public Works committee oppose the current agreement until fair and equitable benefits can be obtained for the citizens of Milwaukee

Sincerely,



Jerry Ann Hamilton
President Milwaukee Branch