

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Ald. Milele Coggs, Chair
Finance and Personnel Committee
Milwaukee Common Council
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Common Council File #160337
June 24, 2016

Dear Ald. Coggs:

The Community Development Alliance (CDA), represented by its executive committee members copied below, would like to express support for the City of Milwaukee's proposed Open Data Policy. CDA leadership has been engaged in discussions regarding the benefits of the policy and how data can be used to support neighborhood revitalization goals. The CDA is supportive of data being made available to organizations to promote partnerships and enhance the delivery of services to Milwaukee residents.

The Community Development Alliance (CDA) is a vehicle for cross-sector collaboration to improve the quality of life in Milwaukee neighborhoods. The vision of the CDA is that all Milwaukee neighborhoods are safe places to live, work, and play; and provide opportunities for people of all races and income levels to lead healthy, productive lives. The CDA supports neighborhood improvement efforts by promoting the use of standard impact measures in order to tell a cohesive story about neighborhood change.

The Open Data Policy is an exciting opportunity to enhance data-driven decision-making and impact measurement for neighborhood revitalization efforts. The policy will complement related efforts to identify and understand neighborhood change in Milwaukee such as the Market Value Analysis, the National Neighborhood Indicators project, and LISC's Neighborhood Monitoring Reports. In addition, the open data policy may spur private-sector innovation through useful applications that will benefit Milwaukee neighborhoods. Finally, open data will help local organizations to engage residents in evidence-based conversations about neighborhood needs and potential solutions.

The Community Development Alliance applauds the City of Milwaukee for joining the What Works Cities initiative, and urges the Common Council to support this initiative by taking the important first step of approving the Open Data policy.

Thank you for your consideration.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Sincerely,



Sarah Greenberg
Director, Community Development Alliance
633 W. Wisconsin Ave., Suite 406
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53203

C: Ald. Chantia Lewis
Ald. Michael Murphy
Ald. Russell Stamper II
Ald. Terry Witkowski
Ald. Nik Kovac

CC: Susan Lloyd, Zilber Family Foundation
Kathryn Dunn, Greater Milwaukee Foundation
Eric Christophersen, Northwestern Mutual Foundation
Martha Brown, City of Milwaukee Department of City Development
Julia Taylor, Greater Milwaukee Committee
Bridget Clementi, Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Donsia Strong Hill, LISC Milwaukee