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Julie Penman Penman Consulting

Sheri Schmit Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Lora Strigens Marquette University July 14, 2016

Milwaukee Common Council City Hall 200 E. Wells Street, Room 205 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Members of the Common Council,

On behalf of Menomonee Valley Partners (MVP), I am writing to share our support for the reappointment of Rocky Marcoux as the Commissioner of the Department of City Development and request the Common Council's support of his reconfirmation.

Throughout his years as Commissioner, Rocky has been an ally of organizations like MVP working for the revitalization of neglected areas of our community, a tremendous cheerleader for our city, and a tireless advocate for the important work of strengthening all of its neighborhoods. The incredible revitalization of the Menomonee Valley over the last 15 years would not have been possible without the supportive leadership of DCD.

Rocky has been a strong proponent for the revitalization of the Menomonee Valley and our work to redevelop brownfield land and vacant buildings to provide family supporting jobs in the heart of the city. Under his administration, the Valley has seen an incredible transformation: 300 acres of brownfield land have been redeveloped; 40 companies have moved to or significantly expanded within the Valley; 5,000 family-supporting jobs have been created; and 60 acres of parks and trails, including Three Bridges Park, have been developed, creating walk/bike to work connections for neighbors as well as opportunities to enjoy nature in the heart of the city.

This year, Three Bridges Park was recognized with a national Social Impact Award for its repurposing of a vacant former rail yard and turning it into a park and outdoor science classroom and pedestrian bridges that make jobs accessible – the most recent in a long list of national accolades for the tremendous strides the Valley has made in achieving economic development, environmental restoration, and community building goals. The Valley has become a national model for sustainable redevelopment, and is lauded by other cities as the example of how a city, through strategic investment and strong policies, re-industrialized a historic manufacturing district to provide family supporting jobs.

Through his long-term involvement on the board of MVP, Rocky engages in meaningful conversations about how we connect residents of the surrounding neighborhoods to the pipeline for good jobs in the Valley, while also taking the lessons learned here to other areas of Milwaukee where revitalization efforts would benefit from a similar strategic partnership between the City, the community, and the private sector.

Building on the Menomonee Valley success, Rocky Marcoux and the City are already making steady progress to replicate the Valley's successes in the 30<sup>th</sup> Street Industrial Corridor, particularly evident in the work at the former A.O. Smith/Tower Automotive site being redeveloped as Century City. City-managed contracts, which exceeded EBE goals in the Valley, are finding similar success at Century City, where partnerships between the City and private sector are training unemployed workers for sustainable careers.

Rocky Marcoux has led vital work on behalf of the City in supporting the revitalization of the Valley, and his reconfirmation is critical to the continued progress of the many initiatives underway throughout Milwaukee. We respectfully request your support in reconfirming his appointment.

Sincerely,

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Corey Zetts **Executive Director** 

Mick Hatch Chair

**Bruce Keyes** President

cc: Rocky Marcoux