



July 27, 2017

Dear Council President Ashanti Hamilton and Council Members:

On behalf of EMPLOY Milwaukee, I am writing today to respectfully request the Common Council to hold or send back to committee Common Council file # 170451, substitute resolution relating to acceptance of funding of a Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development grant for the Building Occupational Skills for Success (BOSS) program and a matching contribution from the City of Milwaukee.

EMPLOY Milwaukee shares the goal of developing and implementing sustainable workforce initiatives that benefit Milwaukee Public School students and we appreciate the efforts to secure State of Wisconsin Workforce Development funds to reach that goal.

Currently, Milwaukee Public Schools and EMPLOY are working together, under a Memorandum of Understanding, on the Career Plus Program. The program is based at the Barack Obama School of Career and Technical Education (BOSCTE).

The goal of Career Plus is to improve and connect the services available to young people through enhanced ability to meet skill requirements for local employers, increased self-sufficiency, and enhanced productivity and competitiveness in the workforce. BOSCTE students have access to services of the Career Plus program, which places a full-time Career Coordinator in the school. This program focuses on planning for and supporting career pathways, as well as employing a variety of strategies to connect students to the world of work.

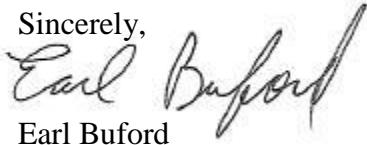
Our request to hold the file will allow time to fully vet and align the Building Occupational Skills for Success (BOSS) program with the strategic objectives being implemented in the MPS 2017-2018 academic school year and the Career Plus Program. EMPLOY Milwaukee goals are to integrate programming without duplication of effort, incorporate funding streams into a sustainable program and insure that faculty and interagency staff help design and build the curriculum before it's presented to the EMPLOY Board for approval.

EMPLOY Milwaukee understands the importance of accepting the State matching fund. Providing us time to refine the BOSS proposal, integrate program goals with curriculum and develop a sustainable budget will not just insure acceptance of the State funds but provide an opportunity to strengthen our shared programmatic goals over time. Our intent is to collaborate with MPS and provide you with an implementation plan September.

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I thank you for your efforts to improve Milwaukee, and express our willingness to continue to work with you as opportunities arise and to address our common objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Earl Buford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "E" and a long, trailing "d".

Earl Buford

