Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Peterson, Todd
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 8:07 AM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: RE: People's Flag

Categories: Arts Board

Neither of us

Todd Peterson
Legislative Assistant
14th Aldermanic District
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St. rm 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414.286.2873
todd.peterson@milwaukee.gov
fax 414.286.3456

From: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 8:06 AM
To: Peterson, Todd
Subject: RE: People's Flag

Of any outreach or comments from Ald. Zielinski?

From: Peterson, Todd
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 8:05 AM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: RE: People's Flag

I am not aware of any

Todd Peterson
Legislative Assistant
14th Aldermanic District
City of Milwaukee
200 E. Wells St. rm 205
Milwaukee, WI 53202
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todd.peterson@milwaukee.gov
fax 414.286.3456

From: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 7:55 AM
To: Council Members _Aides
Subject: People's Flag

Good morning,

The Arts Board has developed a Subcommittee to deal with the Official City Flag. Members of the Subcommittee have asked if any outreach was done to Council members by Greater Together prior to the flag file being scheduled before Steering & Rules, if there was outreach please respond to this email with what the outreach was and your thoughts about it. The Subcommittee is also interested in what comments Council members have regarding the flag and the process. This information will be shared with Subcommittee members on Tuesday, October 2nd. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Molly Kuether-Steele
Staff Assistant
City Clerk's Office
414.286.2775

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Doherty, Patricia
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 9:00 AM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: RE: People's Flag

Categories: Arts Board

Hi Molly,

My boss said he met with them once, but is neutral on the subject and is leaving it up to the Arts Board.

Patty Doherty
Legislative Aide
Alderman Donovan
8th District
(414) 286-3533

From: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 7:55 AM
To: Council Members _Aides
Subject: People's Flag

Good morning,

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Thank you,

Molly Kuether-Steele
Staff Assistant
City Clerk's Office
414.286.2775

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Witkowski, Terry
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 9:02 AM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: Re: People's Flag

Categories: Arts Board

I met with the organizer before the process began to discuss the process to be used. There were news stories along the way and I believe the council received email notifications of the display in city hall of the final fifty. I have heard that I was not the only member they met with and that several were approached for sponsorship.
Since prior efforts to change the flag by council members went no where, I advised the organizer that they would have to show public support for a new flag before it would be likely that the council would adopt it. That flag seems to be appearing on products and porches through the metro area. That seems to me to be public support.
Alderman Terry Witkowski

Sent from my iPad

On Sep 27, 2018, at 7:54 AM, Kuether-Steele, Molly <Molly.Kuether-Steele@milwaukee.gov> wrote:

> Good morning,
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> The Arts Board has developed a Subcommittee to deal with the Official City Flag. Members of the Subcommittee have asked if any outreach was done to Council members by Greater Together prior to the flag file being scheduled before Steering & Rules, if there was outreach please respond to this email with what the outreach was and your thoughts about it. The Subcommittee is also interested in what comments Council members have regarding the flag and the process. This information will be shared with Subcommittee members on Tuesday, October 2nd. Please let me know if you have any questions.
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> Thank you,
>
> Molly Kuether-Steele
> Staff Assistant
> City Clerk's Office
> 414.286.2775

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Bauman, Robert
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 8:45 AM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Cc: Lemmer, Jodi; Owczarski, Jim
Subject: RE: People's Flag

Categories: Arts Board

There was no outreach to my office prior to and during the so called “process” by which the “design competition’ was conducted. It appeared to be limited to Face Book and seemed to be initiated by self selected private parties acting independent of any city officials, departments, committees or commissions. There seemed to be a sense of pride, even hubris, that this was being conducted outside of any official city process. That was very troubling to me since I know that Face Book is a limited community that does not include or embrace the entire city and I knew that eventually this issue would come before the council for debate and approval. Process is important in government but this process was almost an “anti-process” in that the initiators were determined to not include any traditional institutional reviews or structures. Even the name of the flag, “people’s flag”, connoted a sense that this was being undertaken outside of and in defiance of regular governmental institutions—as if to suggest that government is not the people nor representative of the people but actually the people’s adversary.

Once a design was “selected” I was lobbied to support the “selected” design by maybe a dozen individuals who would send mostly canned emails multiple times. The vast majority of my constituents were completely unaware that a new flag was being proposed. If this was a “grass roots” effort it was grass limited to a very small sliver of the large and diverse Milwaukee community.

Perhaps a flag is of little importance so why not adopt any design that comes along today and maybe next year adopt a different design as a new Face Book group emerges and selects another design. We can do this every year on an ad hoc basis as dictated by a hand full of folks on Face Book as new “people’s flags” emerge. On the other hand if a flag is in fact a significant civic symbol for a city and community meant to represent and reflect its history, aspirations and sense of place (as argued by the proponents of the people’s flag) then a broad based “process” is absolutely critical to achieve maximum buy-in by as broad a cross section of the community as possible.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

From: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 7:54 AM
To: Council Members _Aides
Subject: People's Flag

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process. This information will be shared with Subcommittee members on Tuesday, October 2nd. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Molly Kuether-Steele
Staff Assistant
City Clerk's Office
414.286.2775

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Johnson, Cavalier
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2018 4:14 PM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: Re: People's Flag

Categories: Arts Board

Great. My comments are these:

First off, I think that Milwaukee needs a new flag. A symbol that we all can rally around. I think that it is almost without question that while our current City flag is a jumbled concoction when flags should be simple and instantly recognizable. Even without words embroidered on them, one can recognize the flags of nations around the world and even major cities in the United States. While Milwaukee's flag is recognized, it isn't because of good design.

The proposed People's Flag, solves most all of these problems and admittedly, I do like the flag and was an early supporter. But we've been having a conversation about a new flag for sometime and that has opened the door to further reflection.

Growing up in Milwaukee, I was one of the thousands of young people of color that navigated through poverty and tumultuous neighborhoods. I was already a teenager before I even laid eyes on Lake Michigan. To me, that's the thing that's so striking.

While I appreciate the intent of People's Flag to capture the history of Milwaukee in the water with sunrise over the lake, for too many people and especially for people who grew up in this town like I did — who are still growing up in this town that same way, they can't recognize the significance of the flag. They can't rally around a picture of a sunrise over a lake that they've never seen.

In all of these years I've never forgotten when I discovered that there was a world east of MLK Drive and a Great Lake washing up on the city's shore. But I had to be reminded of it.

In short, I do think that we need a new flag. I think that we need a flag that is simpler, recognizable, and captures the experiences of our city's history and the history of all its inhabitants — including those little boys and little girls of color who are maturing and have yet to see the lake.

Cavalier Johnson
Alderman, 2nd District | City of Milwaukee
(o) 414-286-3777 (e) cavalier.johnson2@milwaukee.gov
City Hall 200 E. Wells Street room 205
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2018, at 8:00 AM, Kuether-Steele, Molly <Molly.Kuether-Steele@milwaukee.gov> wrote:

> Yes please. We figured it might be hard to get all 14 to attend the Subcommittee meeting, so email is fine.
>
> Molly Kuether-Steele

Staff Assistant
City Clerk's Office
City of Milwaukee
414.286.2775

From: Johnson, Cavalier
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 7:59 AM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: Re: People's Flag

Should we just respond directly to you with thoughts?

Cavalier Johnson
Alderman, 2nd District | City of Milwaukee
(o) 414-286-3777 (e) cavalier.johnson2@milwaukee.gov
City Hall 200 E. Wells Street room 205
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 27, 2018, at 7:54 AM, Kuether-Steele, Molly <Molly.Kuether-Steele@milwaukee.gov> wrote:

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> Thank you,
>
> Molly Kuether-Steele
> Staff Assistant
> City Clerk's Office
> 414.286.2775

Kuether-Steele, Molly

From: Murphy, Michael (Alderman)
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2018 3:49 PM
To: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Subject: RE: People's Flag

Categories: Arts Board

Molly,

If this is the group that created the Milwaukee People's Flag, then yes. Alderman Murphy met with the creators of the Milwaukee People's flag in early June, 2018.

Thank you.

-Alec

Alec Knutson
Legislative Assistant to Alderman Michael J. Murphy
10th District
200 East Wells Street – 2nd Floor | Milwaukee, WI 53202
414.286.2074 (office) | 414.286.3456 (fax)
alec.knutson@milwaukee.gov (email)

To report a City service related issue, you may also use **Click for Action** or call 414-286-CITY (2489)

From: Kuether-Steele, Molly
Sent: Thursday, September 27, 2018 7:55 AM
To: Council Members _Aides
Subject: People's Flag

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Molly Kuether-Steele
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