



**Tom Barrett**  
Mayor, City of Milwaukee

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April 2, 2020

The Honorable, Members of the Common Council of  
The City of Milwaukee  
City Hall Room 205

Honorable Council Members:

I am vetoing Common Council File Number 191782. This file rescinds a previously adopted resolution (CCFN 191565) which certified that the proposed expansion of the Wisconsin Center District met criteria required by State law to undertake an expansion.

It is important for the City to fully participate in the benefits an expanded Wisconsin Center will bring. Working with President Hamilton and the Wisconsin Center District (WCD) Board, we have developed a proposal that will allow the expansion to go forward in a way that is fair to the City and its taxpayers.

The City of Milwaukee is the only city in the State of Wisconsin that is not receiving 30% of its room tax revenue for public safety. Many feel that it is unfair for Milwaukee to be singled out in this way. In crafting this proposal, our goal is to provide the city with a long-term stream of revenue to address public safety and other important concerns

Under this agreement, for the first time in over 20 years the City will collect a share of the District's net revenue including increased payments based on the District's future success.

In addition to the revenue provisions, the agreement provides for more employment and business opportunities for our residents. Specifically, the District agrees to meet the Residential Preference Program (RPP) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) goals mandated for development projects supported through City tax increment financing.

In these uncertain economic times, I support every opportunity to connect Milwaukee businesses and workers with meaningful projects as opportunities. We saw great success

with the Northwestern Mutual and Fiserv Forum projects, and the Wisconsin Center expansion should follow the same model.

The Wisconsin Center District expansion is an opportunity to continue building Milwaukee as a place for business and events, and an international stage for sports, celebrations, and conventions. The proposal we have crafted together is one that ensures the City benefits from that expansion in many ways, now and in the future.

I ask that you support this proposal for additional revenue and jobs in our city and sustain my veto.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Barrett". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Tom Barrett  
Mayor