

Polanco, Joanna

From: Owczarski, Jim
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 1:30 PM
To: Polanco, Joanna
Subject: FW: Reconsideration
Attachments: Equity & Inclusion Report.pdf

For the file.

Jim

Jim Owczarski, CMC
City Clerk
(414)-286-2998
@mkeclerk

From: Woodall-Vogg, Claire
Sent: Thursday, July 02, 2020 1:01 PM
To: Owczarski, Jim
Subject: Reconsideration

Dear Council Members,

I would like to express to you my desire to serve in the role of executive director of the Election Commission. Over the past week, through thoughtful conversations with members of the Council, community partners, other city employees, and poll workers, I have been assured of the support and assistance that the Election Commission needs in order to remove as many barriers to voting as possible. My nearly eight years of experience in election administration, where I have spearheaded the introduction of new technology and streamlined procedures into our absentee and registration programs, has prepared me for the fast evolution within the department that COVID19 requires. Now, more than ever, I feel entirely equipped and confident in my ability to lead the department forward during this pivotal time. Ensuring the integrity of the upcoming elections of is the utmost importance, not just locally but also nationally.

As someone born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, the importance of voting rights, voting access, and racial equity has never been lost on me. The barriers that prevent access to voting are now more subtle than the overt tactics negated by the 1965 Voting Rights Act. These new tactics include a restrictive photo ID requirement, burdensome proof of residency in order to register to vote, and continued restrictions to in-person absentee voting. If given the opportunity to serve this city as the executive director of the Election Commission, it will be my intent to do everything within my authority to fight voter suppression and, at every turn, present increased voting opportunities. Attached you will find my report on our department's progress, challenges, and goals toward ensuring that voters of color have access to the polls.

I am committed to providing the leadership, cohesion and consistency that are essential to the department's

ability to move forward. I have worked every day since the Spring Election to ensure that City of Milwaukee voters have safe and expansive voting opportunities, a goal that I know the Council shares. Most recently, I have worked collaboratively with Council members to create a comprehensive SafeVote plan, listening to your desire to increase in-person absentee voting opportunities, as well as sending information to all Milwaukee households on their options to absentee vote by mail. We must continue to work together to strengthen public confidence in our democracy, especially amidst the current pandemic.

The months ahead will be difficult. I know that, but also find strength and assurance in knowing that the members of this Council, the Mayor, and our community partners share in my dedication to fair access to voting. I would like the opportunity to continue an open and transparent relationship with members of this Council and to stand with you in our tireless efforts to protect voting rights and expand access to voting.

Sincerely,



Claire Woodall-Vogg