



October 19, 2020

President Johnson and Steering & Rules Committee Members:

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN) is grateful for the invitation from Alderwoman Coggs and is honored to present among such outstanding people and organizations doing meaningful social justice work in our City.

As a community development organization, we envision a world where every neighborhood, every place, equips every person to reach their full potential. We all benefit, as a community, when we make sure that everyone has what we need to thrive.

The changes that we support are predominantly informed by our work with people living and working in Milwaukee's near south side neighborhoods. Our neighbors are ambitious, caring, determined and community-minded. Many of them are also BIPOC (majority Latinx and Southeast Asian), immigrants, undocumented, have lower household incomes and/or speak languages other than English. Because of the barriers in our systems, many of our neighbors are prevented from fully participating in our community and reaching their full potential. And the losses caused by exclusionary practices and structures diminish all of us.

Today we ask that the City:

1. Make City services and processes more accessible to non-English speakers and Milwaukeeans who use an ITIN (Individual Tax Identification Number). Specifically, allow people with an ITIN to have their business certified as an EBE.
2. Support and invest in housing initiatives that
  - a. Work to eliminate the homeownership gap across race/ethnicity
  - b. Provide housing that will remain permanently affordable to households earning under 80% of the county median income
3. Invest in the implementation of Complete Streets policy recommendations, including meaningful community engagement with BIPOC & non-English speaking communities

We support these types of policies and initiatives because they help create vibrant, welcoming neighborhoods where all people can flourish. By ensuring that resources are distributed equitably throughout our neighborhoods, together we can build strong foundations for well-being for all Milwaukeeans.

In partnership,

Layton Boulevard West Neighbors (LBWN) team

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**LAYTON BOULEVARD WEST NEIGHBORS STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT**

Because we care about **safe & affordable housing for all, equitable access to home ownership, and neighborhood appearance**, we support...

- Public funding designed to close disparity gaps in homeownership and wealth-building and that will be controlled by Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC).
- Fair and transparent lending practices/CRA monitoring that address racial housing discrimination and housing segregation
- Fair landlord/tenant laws
- Holding property owners accountable for nuisance properties
- [Lead and asbestos remediation efforts](#)
- Fair property tax assessment practices and related strategies that prevent displacement
- Expansion of lending & other financial resources for people who use an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN)
- Housing prices that do not cause a housing cost burden (<30% of household income)
- Inclusive housing development that offers quality housing for households with incomes under 80% of the County median income

Because we care about **crime & violence prevention, safe streets, and building a sense of community**, we support...

- Separation of police and immigration enforcement
- Making streets safer for all users (e.g. Complete Streets Policies)
- Proactive violence prevention and harm reduction measures (many of which are outlined in the City's Blueprint for Peace), such as conflict resolution, restorative justice and [non-police emergency responders](#)
- Drivers licenses for undocumented people
- Increased access to behavioral health & domestic violence resources
- Immigrant rights
- Funding for neighbor-led community improvement projects and events

Because we care about **reducing waste, water management, our natural environment and resources, and accessible public transportation**, we support...

- Proper stormwater management
- Growing the use of green & renewable energy
- Recycling for commercial corridors
- Anti-littering efforts
- Increased access to public transportation, with proper planning in disinvested neighborhoods to prevent future displacement of current residents

Because we care about **thriving small businesses, businesses invested in community, and neighbor-directed revitalization of commercial corridors**, we support...

- Expanding metrics for government funding of economic development programs beyond job creation
- Funding/subsidies of small-scale commercial development projects
- Commercial properties zoning enforcement

- Policies that encourage reducing commercial vacancies with neighborhood/culturally appropriate businesses
- Increased access to low-cost capital and financial resources for BIPOC business owners
- the City to accept an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) for business owners applying to be a DBE

Because we care about **neighborhood residents having access and power to influence decisions in their communities**, we support...

- Eliminating barriers to voting, voter registration and other forms of civic participation
- Citizen accessibility to government (e.g. multilingual, low-tech access)
- Fair census practices/policy
- Non-partisan redistricting
- More community engagement built into every development process

Because we care about **health and wellness for all**, we support...

- Funding of public park maintenance and improvements
- Equitable maintenance of all streets, and ADA-accessibility during repairs
- Equitable trash & recycling pickup
- Fresh food accessibility
- Adequate and culturally appropriate recreational opportunities
- Affordable and accessible youth and health/wellness programming

Because we care about **the financial wellbeing of people**, we support:

- Increasing the minimum wage to at least \$15/hour
- Access to healthcare, paid leave and child care benefits for all
- A pathway to citizenship for all undocumented immigrants
- Protection of DACA
- Equitable development that offers affordable housing and local jobs
- Efforts to increase wages and upskill BIPOC in our workforce

Because we care about **social justice and equity**, we support...

- Non-discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, language, sexual orientation, gender, ability, or legal status
- Equal access to quality education
- Removal of barriers to employment
- Decreasing wealth disparities across race/ethnicity
- Actively eliminating forms of oppression (e.g. racism, ableism) from our communities & institutions

As such, we do NOT support policies that improve the above criteria if they have a disproportionately negative impact on people who are or have: disabilities, low incomes, undocumented, BIPOC, LGBTQ+, young, elder, immigrant, homeless, non-English speaking, and other marginalized communities.