



July 16, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council
Committee on Finance and Personnel
200 E. Wells St, Rm 205
Milwaukee WI 53202

Chairman Murphy and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing today in favor of the business-support measures included in Mayor Barrett's Stronger Summer proposal. As a recipient of the city's Restart 2.0 grant last year, I can tell you the power of investment for keeping our locally-treasured businesses strong. Milwaukee's unique character and energy is embodied in our family businesses, local restaurants, and independent attractions.

These grants help support businesses that make Milwaukee the incredible city it is. They also reward businesses that did the right thing in suspending or modifying operations to prevent the spread of Covid over the last year, and by doing so, lost a large percentage of their income. Without grants such as these, we will lose some of our best Milwaukee businesses as we struggle to recover from the pandemic.

I should also state, being a progressive business, that investing in small businesses, housing, mental health and community programs will have a much greater impact on our city than giving an endless supply of ineffective funding to the police department, which is starving other programs in the community by consuming 47% of the city budget. I hope those priorities will be taken into account while funds are being allocated. We need to be a city that leads by proactively preventing crime with great jobs, social support, and adequate resources, rather than one that is constantly reacting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Cooper
Owner, Bounce Milwaukee and Fling Milwaukee