



**LEN** Latino  
Entrepreneurial  
Network Inc.



2778 S 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 40, Milwaukee, WI 53215

July 16, 2021

Alderman Michael Murphy  
Chairman, Finance and Personnel Committee  
Common Council  
200 East Wells Street, Room 205  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Alderman Murphy and Honorable Council Members:

The Latino Entrepreneurial Network a 501c3 who serve microenterprises in Milwaukee in our most vulnerable communities, urges the Common Council to adopt Council File Number 210547, Mayor Tom Barrett's first allocation of American Rescue Plan funding. The Stronger Summer Plan provides over \$93 million in needed funding for a range of critical programs as a first phase in the Mayor's Recovery and Resilience Plan. These resources will help Milwaukee continue a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through the summer and into fall.

The Stronger Summer package makes investments in affordable housing and homeownership that will benefit Milwaukee families this year. It provides funding to help Milwaukee's small businesses and diverse entrepreneurs weather what we all hope are the final days of the pandemic.

The Latino Entrepreneurial Network assisted 807 businesses during the pandemic via our Emergency Service Hotline. We were one of the partners of Restart 2.0 and witnessed firsthand the dire need for funds and technical assistance that small minority businesses are facing after the pandemic. Many of them in continue to struggle to get back to the level of sales and operations they were prior to the business closures.

Your support of the Stronger Summer plan will help Milwaukee emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic stronger and more equitable. We urge you again to adopt the plan when it is before the Council this month.

Sincerely,

Nelson Soler, MBA/MS/EDFP  
Executive Director