GRāEF

collaborāte / formulāte / innovāte

August 2, 2021

Milwaukee Common Council
City Hall Room 205
200 E Wells St
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Honorable Council Members:

GRAEF urges the Common Council to adopt Council File Number 210547, Mayor Tom Barrett's proposed 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.

The Stronger Summer proposal is a strong first step toward a more resilient city. The plan is grounded in racial equity and inclusion, and takes intentional first steps to address the unequal impact of COVID-19 on Milwaukee residents. It also makes a significant investment in climate action as a direct result of recommendations developed through the City-County Task Force on Climate and Economic Equity. In particular, we are pleased to support the proposed $2.7 million Century City Clean Energy Jobs Project and the $5 million Climate, Energy and Equity upgrade program to aid residents in employment and homeownership.

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 plan expands resources to households facing eviction, and funds important efforts to continue building high-quality early childhood education for families. It makes investments to increase employment and wages for Milwaukee workers through training and career pathways.

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 in September.

Sincerely,

John Kissinger, P.E., S.E.
President and CEO