McGovern Park Seniors

4500 W. Custer Ave Milwaukee, WI 53218 05-01-2025

Congresswoman Gwen Moore

U.S. House of Representatives 250 East Wisconsin, Suite 950 Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Congresswoman Moore,

We hope this letter finds you well. We are writing to you as concerned constituents and senior citizens regarding the proposed plan to develop a senior living facility within McGovern Park.

While understanding the need for low income senior housing in Milwaukee, placing such a facility within the bounds of McGovern Park raises significant concerns. This plan would permanently alter public park land and set a troubling precedent for future private development in our city's shared green spaces. Public parks are vital community assets meant for the enjoyment and benefit of all residents, not sites for privatization.

Beyond the loss of green space, the proposed development may result in overnight parking—which is currently prohibited in public parks—and could introduce safety concerns for both the residents and the broader community. Additionally, allowing family members to live with senior residents may further change the park's use and atmosphere, complicating its role as a community recreational space.

Rather than constructing new housing within the park, we urge local and county officials to fully explore alternative funding solutions for improving the current McGovern Park Senior Center. This could include public-private partnerships, local business sponsorships, or broader community support efforts to sustain and renovate the existing facility—without sacrificing public land.

The current Senior Center is a valuable resource that provides meals, wellness checks, recreational activities, education, and social support. For many of us, it is a lifeline—a place that promotes dignity, health, and connection in our later years. Seniors already face limited choices; taking away this space feels like another blow to a vulnerable population.

We respectfully propose that the Milwaukee County administration return to the board with an alternative plan—one that preserves McGovern Park as public space and maintains the Senior Center's mission as a service hub for older adults.

Congresswoman Moore, we know your time is valuable, but we deeply appreciate your advocacy on behalf of Milwaukee's seniors. We respectfully request your support in urging decision-makers to preserve the McGovern Park Senior Center and protect the park from inappropriate development.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to our community. We invite you to visit us at any time.

Contact Information: Minnie Harmon - 414-477-8368, Jack Tomlinson - 414-559-7715

Sincerely, McGovern Park Seniors

cc: Tammy Baldwin

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