



September 9, 2024

City of Milwaukee, Equal Rights Commission
Chair Tony Snell
City of Milwaukee, City Hall
200 East Wells Street, Room 606
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Re: Request to Support Disabilities Representative on the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee

Dear Commissioner Snell, and Members of the Equal Rights Commission,

We write in appreciation of your work on behalf of all citizens in the City of Milwaukee and to make a request. As members of the Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities, we collectively work to “promote the independence of disabled persons through the removal of attitudinal and environmental barriers and to promote a maximal level of independence with dignity for all disabled persons.” Ch. 73.01, M.C.G.O.

One of the fundamental ways that persons with disabilities have independence is through access to stable housing suitable to the mobility and living needs of people with disabilities. Our Commission members have received public comment from the Common Ground organization, and we have been made aware of investigative reports asserting that the housing provided by the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee is not meeting the needs of people with disabilities. We write the Equal Rights Commission to inform it that we have heard public concerns over whether the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee is addressing the access and living needs of the many persons with disabilities. And we write to request that the Equal Rights Commission consider supporting and promoting the idea of a disability representative on the Housing Authority of the City of Milwaukee Board of Commissioners.

We would be happy to help the Equal Rights Commission in efforts to achieve that representation outcome. We welcome the opportunity to talk with Commissioner Snell or members of the Equal Rights Commission about this suggestion. Our contact on this issue is Commissioner Barbara Leigh, who can be reached at 414-278-3932. Thank you for your leadership and your consideration.

Milwaukee County Commission for Persons with Disabilities