



CommonBond Communities Wisconsin LLC  
222 South 3rd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53204  
[www.commonbond.org](http://www.commonbond.org)

August 14, 2017

Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors  
Milwaukee County Courthouse  
901 North 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 201  
Milwaukee, WI 53233

Re: Appointment of Nicole Brookshire

To the Honorable Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors:

As Wisconsin Market Leader for CommonBond Communities, the largest provider of affordable housing with services in the upper Midwest, I am aware of the struggles our residents face daily, and in particular, the struggles faced by our African-American residents, who make up, by far, the largest percentage of those we serve. Issues well known to us all including un and under employment, re-entry, access to services, education, and racism are all problems the residents I serve, and all African-American's in Milwaukee County consistently face.

As a community we must come together, pool our talents and resources, and jointly work towards solutions for the advancement of all African-Americans in the County. The creation of the Milwaukee County Office of African-American Affairs was a great step forward towards this goal. Since its creation, I have personally believed that the office can best serve the community by being a conduit to analyze issues affecting the community then bringing stakeholders in the region together to address these issue to have the greatest collective impact. Having known Nicole Brookshire for many years, and having been witness to her ability, I am confident that she is the right person to lead the Office of African-American Affairs for the County. She can be that strong conduit and convener to bring the disparate resources we have in the community together for the advancement of all African-American men, women, and children in the County.

During my time working with and knowing Ms. Brookshire, her commitment to the African-American community has always been on display through her motivation, her work, and her results. During the foreclosure crisis, a crisis that disproportionately affected African-Americans in Milwaukee, Nicole was brought on to lead the neighborhood stabilization efforts for the Community Development Grants Administration for the City of Milwaukee. She brought an innovative approach to ensuring the City's NSP funding was allocated and expended in the most rational and transparent manner possible, to ensure the neighborhoods impacted the most received the most relief. She also lead up the City's efforts as a part of the Continuum of Care to ensure the homeless and those who need services received them in the most coordinated method possible. She also led efforts at Junior Achievement, an organization that plays a major role in the education of Milwaukee Public Schools students, to ensure their operations and partnerships met the needs of the students they served. Ms. Brookshire has shown her dedication to the community and I am confident that in the role of Director, she will be able to leverage her skills and the partnerships she has built in her career for the betterment of that office and for the African-American Community. Additionally, with her background in City government, Nicole is primed to have a great working relationship with the City's Office of African-American Affairs, a relationship that will be vital for the success of both offices.



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For these reasons and more, I enthusiastically recommend Ms. Brookshire for this role. I urge the County Board to vote in the affirmative for her appointment. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe' Mar Hooper", written in a cursive style.

Joe' Mar Hooper

Wisconsin Market Leader

CommonBond Communities Wisconsin