

November 1, 2022

Lakefront Development Advisory Commission
William H. Lynch, Chairman
312 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 210
Milwaukee, WI 53202

RE: Proposal to locate Gold Star Families Memorial on War Memorial Center site

Dear Chairman Lynch,

I write to express my deep concern over the proposal to locate a new memorial within the footprint of the recently renovated War Memorial Center site. The Fund for Lake Michigan, along with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), invested over \$1,000,000 in the site renovation with the understanding that the native plantings and other green infrastructure would be maintained and preserved well into the future. Placement of the new memorial would be a major disruption and would cause significant, irreversible damage to the site.

Specifically, our organizations committed the following:


- Fund for Lake Michigan - \$75,000 for planning and \$125,000 for implementation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - \$473,826 for implementation
- Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District - \$366,966 for implementation

Thanks to financial support from our organizations, the War Memorial Center site has been completely transformed and now includes an intricate system of bioswales and porous pavers along with extensive native plantings designed to both capture stormwater and enhance habitat for migratory birds and other shoreline wildlife. The project, which was many years in the making, was completed just last year and the public is already seeing the benefits of these new green features. Along with improved stormwater management, the native plantings are attracting pollinators, birds and other wildlife.

In addition to the signed grant agreements with the Fund for Lake Michigan and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, both the County Executive and President of the Milwaukee County War Memorial signed a binding conservation easement with MMSD in 2021 to preserve and maintain the site's green infrastructure and native plantings for the next 20 years.

I hope that you will give these concerns serious consideration.

Sincerely,



Vicki Elkin, Executive Director