



August 11, 2021

The Honorable Tom Barrett
Office of the Mayor
200 E. Wells Street, Room 201
Milwaukee, WI 53202

CC: Milwaukee Common Council

Dear Mayor Barrett:

We are writing to express our strong support for the leadership of Milwaukee Health Commissioner, Kirsten Johnson, and to affirm her strategy for handling the current increases in COVID cases in our community.

While changing COVID mitigation strategies and guidance nationally have at times sown skepticism and confusion among the public, Commissioner Johnson has been unwaveringly consistent in her messaging that widespread vaccination is the only long-term way to effectively reduce COVID risk in our community. She and her department have backed up that messaging with action, creatively reaching into the community to try to increase vaccinations among underrepresented populations. In addition, the Commissioner has provided up-to-date scientific information and health recommendations, and given individuals and organizations the flexibility to responsibly apply those standards in ways that best fit their unique business and workforce realities. Her approach has applied both medical science facts and social science realities to the current COVID situation.

We know that there are voices trying to pressure Commissioner Johnson into imposing new one-size-fits-all public health mandates on the City of Milwaukee. We believe such mandates would be largely unenforceable and would have a polarizing effect in the community that would detrimentally impact individual behavior. In addition, such mandates would make the City of Milwaukee a regulatory island and have a negative economic impact on schools and businesses who have been going to great lengths to operate safely, while having no impact on uncontrolled social settings where the virus is actually spreading more widely.

Commissioner Johnson's steady approach and consistent messaging around the importance of vaccination have provided a clear and rational rallying point and action plan for our community. As individuals and organizations, we are doing all we can to echo and amplify that message and to back her efforts. We urge you and all the elected officials of Milwaukee to similarly support Commissioner Johnson's leadership.

Sincerely,

Tim Sheehy, President
MMAC

Tim Eichinger, Co-Owner
Black Husky Brewing

Toni Eichinger, Co-Owner
Black Husky Brewing

Paul Hackbarth
Hackbarth Hospitality Group
Hackbarth Commercial LLC
Camp Bar Third Ward
Deer Camp
Vista
Campsite 131

Kaelyn Cervero
F Street Hospitality
Bottle House 42
The Brown Bottle

Michael Vitucci, President
Uncle Buck's on Third
Izzy Hops
Belmont Tavern
Caffery's Pub
Murphy's Irish Pub
Bar Management Group

Joseph Tierney
Wisconsin Lutheran High School
Wisconsin Lutheran College

Fred Lautz, Executive Director
St. Marcus Lutheran Church and School

Kristine Hillmer
Wisconsin Restaurant Association

Marcia Spector, Executive Director
Seeds of Health

Abby Andrietsch, CEO
St. Augustine Preparatory Academy

Peggy Williams-Smith, President and CEO
VISIT Milwaukee

Dr. Kenneth J. Fischer, President
Wisconsin Lutheran High School

Gino Fazzari
Calderone Club
San Giorgio Pizzeria Neapolitana

Jim Bender
School Choice Wisconsin Action

Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club

Jeff Monday, Principal
Marquette University High School

Susan Mitchel, Board Chair
School Choice Wisconsin

Eric Wagner
The Lowlands Group

Omar Shaikh
Carnevor

Beth Weirick
Milwaukee Downtown

Peggy Seegers-Braun
Divine Savior Holy Angels High School

Dan Jacobs
JVR Group

Tracy Johnson
CARW

Curt Kluth
Saz's Hospitality Group

AJ Dixon
Lazy Susan MKE

Bobby Wiltgen
Cream City Concepts
Who's on Third
Oak Barrel Public House
Third Street Tavern
Third Street Property Mgt.

Matt Schmidt
Vagabond
Water Street Brewery
Trinity
The Harp

Laura Gutierrez, Executive Director
United Community Center

Jesus Gonzalez
Zocalo Food Park

Chris Wiken
The Packing House Restaurant

Steve Anderson
Culvers

Paul Schwartz, Executive Director
Milwaukee Public Market

Adam Kirsch, Principal
Milwaukee Lutheran High School

John Dye
Bryant's Cocktail Lounge
At Random
The Jazz Estate

Jack Herbert, President
Pius XI Catholic High School

Dan Nelson
600 East Business Center

Jill Ruffing
600 East Cafe

Fr. Michael Marco, S.J.
Marquette University High School