



## Office of the Mayor

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January 27, 2016

The Honorable Joe Parisi  
Dane County Executive  
210 Martin Luther King Blvd.  
Room 421  
Madison, WI 53703

Dear County Executive Parisi,

I wanted to convey my thoughts on two subject that are critical to the city as Dane County officials continue efforts to establish a comprehensive daytime resource center to serve homeless persons. I believe these comments generally reflect the sentiments of the Madison Common Council, and that they convey a message that is consistent with statements put forth in the past by city officials.

First, since the County's acquisition of the former Messner's property on the 1300 block of East Washington Avenue, it has been understood that its conversion to a facility suitable to host a daytime resource center would require a conditional use permit. I have pledged the City's cooperation in securing that permit and I'm aware that City staff has had initial conversations preparatory to that formal process.

While I stand by my previous commitment to work through this process with the County, it is very important to emphasize that the City's response to a conditional use request for this proposed use, like any other request, must be found by the Plan Commission to meet the conditional use standards as laid out in City ordinances that govern such decisions. They address issues pertaining both to structural and operational, or management, aspects of the project. Planning Division staff can fully explain the conditional use application process.

A second matter of considerable focus has been the City's financial participation in operating the Center. It is fair to say that City decision makers have signaled a willingness to contribute to operational costs. That said, after four years of discussion, detailed operations plan and a corresponding budget has not been shared with the City. Without that level of detail and an ability to assess the plan, the City cannot contract a financial commitment to the project. A final determination of City support will have to occur within the larger context of our budget process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul R. Soglin".

Paul R. Soglin  
Mayor