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Common Council President Samba Baldeh
Room 417, City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard
Madison Wisconsin 53703

Re: District 13 vacancy

Dear Council President Baldeh and Common Council:

Alder Eskrich encouraged me to apply for the District 13 alder vacancy. I have time, a history of public service, and substantial neighborhood and community knowledge and deliberative body experience to effectively serve the city and district. I would not run for election in April 2019.

Personal information. I recently retired from Foley & Lardner LLP, where I was a trial lawyer (primarily intellectual property and real estate cases) and local government lawyer since 1990. I was at another Madison law firm from 1982-90. I received a B.A. in Political Science from UW-Madison in 1978 and a J.D. in 1981. Before entering private practice, I served as a judicial law clerk for Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice Roland Day.

I moved to Dane County in 1964, and attended elementary and high school in Middleton. I have lived on Madison's east and south sides since 1977. My wife, Betsy Erickson, is a lawyer. My son and daughter (Quinn and Rose Arntsen) graduated from East in 2002 and 2004. My stepdaughters Claire and Ava Pevehouse are about to enter (respectively) West High and Hamilton Middle schools.

Community involvement. I have held substantial city and community positions for over three decades. Mayor Soglin appointed me to the Plan Commission in the mid-1990s, and I served as vice-chair. Mayor Cieslewicz appointed me to the Library Board, ALRC, and two committees overseeing UW development. I was on the alder redistricting committees following the 1990 and 2000 censuses, chairing the latter committee. I also chaired a downtown historic plan committee and served on ad hoc committees reviewing a proposed Madison Metro transit center and downtown backyard parking lots.

I chair the Madison Public Library Foundation board and lead its Pinney library capital campaign. I was board chair and chaired the economic development and government relations committees of Downtown Madison Inc. I was board chair and a director of Madison Development Corporation. I serve on the Dane County Board of Canvassers and the Racial Equity committee of downtown Rotary.

I am an area representative and serve on the Neighborhood Council of the Bay Creek Neighborhood Association. Alder Eskrich appointed me to steering committees reviewing the Eight Twenty affordable housing project on Park Street and the proposed Dean SSM redevelopment along Fish Hatchery Road. When I lived on the east side, I chaired the Schenk Atwood Revitalization Association for many years and am president of its successor, Atwood Barrymore Corporation. I chaired the Barrymore Theater board for over twenty years.

Why I want to serve. I am deeply committed to the City of Madison. My legal and community service experience has given me the skills to address and reconcile diverse interests to advance common goals. District 13 includes historically underprivileged and underserved areas of the south side, and middle class neighborhoods that must balance the interests of long term residents and urban redevelopment. Homelessness, racial and economic equity, lack of affordable housing, and crime are serious issues for both the district and the city. The transportation and commercial corridors along Park, Regent, and Monroe streets provide opportunities for economic development and vibrant urban living, while presenting challenges and opportunities for multi-modal transportation and adjacent residential neighborhoods. Lake Monona, Monona Bay, Wingra Creek, and Lake Wingra present water quality and access issues.

What I'd like to accomplish. Because this appointment is for less than eight months, I do not have a detailed agenda. My experience serving on and appearing before city boards and commissions gives me great respect for the city's staff and procedures, and a commitment to a fair, open and efficient process. While my community and professional experience should give me a fast start, much of my time will be listening to and advocating for constituents. I will meet with each District 13 neighborhood group to understand pending issues and concerns. I will talk with Alder Eskrich, County Supervisor Kilmer, council leadership, and alders representing adjoining districts to understand city and neighborhood priorities and initiatives. Based upon these discussions, I will work to incorporate these priorities into the 2019 city capital and operating budgets, the comprehensive plan update, and such other matters that come before the Council or arise in the district. At the same time, I will prioritize informing constituents of items before the Council, which I consider especially important given the upcoming election for the open alder position.

I hope to continue Alder Eskrich's excellent work on behalf of District 13 constituents and making city government and processes work effectively. She is a tough act to follow. My top priority is that the benefits of this great city be available to all of its residents, focusing on racial and economic equity. Current district issues include affordable housing, development of the SSM/Truman Olson/ Pick 'N Save properties, Edgewood campus improvements, Monroe Street reconstruction, plans for the Alliant Center, crime and addiction, and a stream of redevelopment proposals. I would review and advance initiatives in these areas that would benefit the district and city.

As an avid bicyclist and frequent bus rider I have a strong interest in transportation. The Park Street and Monroe/Regent corridors present multi-modal transportation challenges and opportunities. As a Monona Bay resident and member of Clean Lakes Alliance, I care about the health of our lakes, and making the lakes and parks accessible to all. I support infill development and healthy density that considers the reasonable interests of affected neighbors. I will listen to and advance the concerns of constituents, but recognize that the common public good must be paramount.

Thank you for considering me for this position. I look forward to speaking with you and answering questions as to my qualifications and interest in serving as the District 13 Alder until April 2019.

Very truly yours,



Allen Arntsen