

March 16, 2009

Alder Tim Bruer
District 14
210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Alder Bruer,

I am writing to express my concern regarding your unacceptable behavior at the CDBG public hearing on March 5, 2009, which I attended.

For reference, I am a resident of the City of Madison and the vice chair of the Community Services Commission (CSC). At our monthly meeting this week, with Charlie Sanders in attendance, I reported that many aspects of the CDBG hearing were positive. However, after I felt compelled to share with City Staff and the other commissioners the appalling and disrespectful behavior you exhibited towards citizens who testified, I was strongly encouraged to write and address my concerns with you.

Allow me to refresh your memory:


Kim, a public health nurse, gave testimony seeking funds and support for a community garden at Toki Middle School so that nutritional food is available to the community. At the conclusion of her testimony you asked her for her telephone number in order to provide assistance, then proceeded to say "1-900" with a pause for her to fill in the rest of the phone number.

Helen, a 96 year old community member, gave testimony about the many good years she has enjoyed living in the neighborhood and how her neighbors appreciate the new neighborhood center. At the close of her remarks you felt compelled to comment on her age by comparing her to a bottle of wine saying, "Women, like fine wine only get better with age".

As someone who works daily to improve respect and civility in our community, I find it shameful that your insulting comments not only reflect poorly on you but also on our City. This type of behavior is not tolerable especially when insulting citizens of our City who take the time to give testimony in an attempt to improve the quality of life in Madison.

In closing, I ask you to be mindful of your behavior. Additionally, I ask this letter be entered in the minutes of both commissions at their next meeting.

Sincerely,


Mary Czyszczak-Lyne
2532 Van Hise Ave.
Madison, WI 53705

cc: Community Development Block Grant Commission
Community Services Commission
Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
✓Director Bill Clingan

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