

Public Comment
By Nate Schorr on Behalf of Neighborhood Center Coalition
Community Services Committee
June 14, 2023

Good evening.

Thanks for the opportunity to speak to you tonight. My name is Nate Schorr and I am the Program Manager at Bayview.

But tonight, I am appearing before you as part of a newly formed coalition of 14 Neighborhood Centers.

Our Coalition has come together to speak with a unified voice, to share the importance of the work Neighborhood Centers do, to increase our visibility to the larger community, and to elevate our mission.

As you know, Neighborhood Centers are located in neighborhoods in virtually all areas of this beautiful City. We provide programming, safe places, food pantries and services that strengthen neighborhoods. We make a positive difference in the lives and futures of thousands of our most vulnerable kids and families.

We thank City Staff and the Committee for their work on this RFP process. As you may know, this is the first time since 2012 that Neighborhood Centers have had the opportunity to apply for these funds which support children and youth programming that we are required to provide.

During that decade, need has increased, costs have risen, inflation has soared and flat funding levels have had a negative impact on our organizations, our employees, and on the size and numbers of the programs we can offer.

The funding you will allocate tonight is an important step forward in strengthening our Centers and advancing the vital work we do.

But it is only a first step – the programs you will fund tonight have a total cost of about \$5.3 million dollars while the proposed City funding totals about \$1.6 million.

We look forward to our Coalition working in partnership with the City and our elected officials to more fully fund the operations and programs at Neighborhood Centers in this budget and beyond. Thank you again for your work, and for your dedication to making Madison a place where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Thank you.

