



UNITEHERE!

MEMO

TO: Mayor Soglin; Madison City Council; Board of Estimates

FROM: Claire Tinley, UNITE HERE Local 1

DATE: April 11, 2016

RE: Public Comment for JDS discussion

Mayor Soglin and members of the Board,

My name is Claire Tinley and I'm a research analyst with UNITE HERE Local 1, the labor union that represents hotel and hospitality workers.

We are concerned that Marcus Hotels, Vermilion's hotel partner, may not create good quality jobs. We are still waiting to see if Marcus will respond to Alder Verveer's query regarding the current starting wage for housekeepers at the Hilton Monona Terrace, which is across the street from JDS. It is in our view unlikely that Marcus would choose to pay different wages or have different standards at two hotels next to each other. As a result, any increased standards required by the Common Council, such as a living wage requirement, could impact the Hilton. Unless Marcus Hotels is prepared to extend labor conditions placed on the Judge Doyle Square hotel to the Hilton Monona Terrace, Marcus should be expected to resist strongly any significant minimum labor standards at the Judge Doyle Square project.

This is simply one aspect of the harm that can be done by expanding Marcus' monopoly on the Madison hotel market. Expanded monopoly can also mean a smaller network for bringing visitors and meetings to Madison, higher prices, and long-term downward pressure on workers' wages.

We urge you not to select Vermilion/Marcus to develop Judge Doyle Square.

Thank you,

Claire Tinley