

May 6, 2022

Keith Furman
President, Madison Common Council

Jael Currie,
Vice President, Madison Common Council

cc: Common Council Executive Committee

President Furman,
Vice President Currie,
Common Council Executive Committee Members,

I write to you to apply for the open position of District 3 Alder. Within this packet you will find:

- My Biographical Resume;
- Why I Wish to Serve;
- What I Wish to Accomplish;
- Whether I Plan to Run for Alderperson in the Spring 2023 Election; and
- My Name, Address, Cellphone Number, and E-mail Address.

Although unfortunate that Alder Lemmer will be leaving this position, I am grateful for the opportunity to apply to fill this role. I want to thank the Alderpersons in advance for their consideration and for their devotion to the duties required by their position to appoint a new alder to serve Alder Lemmer's remaining term. I look forward to meeting everyone and discussing this great public service opportunity and how I believe I can best serve the people of District 3 in a collaborative manner with the rest of the Common Council.

Best Regards,

s/
Matthew E.D. Van Eperen

Madison, WI 53718

- Attended and took notes during House and Senate meetings; drafted memos to report primary points discussed.
- Compiled report for government relations staff to get to know the districts where the Corporation's numerous properties/businesses were located and who the congresspersons were.

CIVIC AND JUDICIAL EXPERIENCE

January 2019–April 2019

Judicial Intern, The Honorable M. Joseph Donald

Milwaukee County Circuit Court

Wauwatosa, WI

- Observed Family Drug Treatment Court meetings and other proceedings, including trials and motion hearings; Assisted judge and FDTC Coordinator in court tasks, including researching programs for participants and legal issues for the court.

January 2017–May 2017

Congressional District Intern

District Office of Congresswoman Gwen Moore

Milwaukee, WI

- Responsible for fielding constituent phone calls and provided District staff with briefs about the phone calls.
- Entered legislative comments and concerns into computer program, which provided Congresswoman Moore and her staff access to knowing how constituents felt about legislation and ongoing issues affecting them.
- Assisted caseworkers with constituent services, particularly veteran issues.

EDUCATION

May 2020

Marquette University Law School

Milwaukee, WI

Juris Doctor

Study Abroad: Justus Liebig Universität – Gießen, Germany – Summer 2018

May 2017

Marquette University

Milwaukee, WI

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (Global Politics)

Minors: International Affairs and German Studies

Societies: Pi Sigma Alpha

Delta Phi Alpha

National Residence Hall Honorary

Study Abroad: Philipps Universität Marburg – Marburg, Germany – Fall 2015

BAR ADMISSION

2020

Wisconsin (Member Number 1113784)

VOLUNTEERING

July 2020–present

T-1 Today, Inc. (d/b/a Children with Diabetes)

- Focusing on care today so the world is ready for a cure tomorrow, CWD is a global resource that provides support, education, and inspiration to empower those living with Type 1 Diabetes (fka juvenile diabetes)
- Volunteer Duties: Leading small groups to educate, reflect, and understand Type 1 Diabetes for children ages 6-8 with the disease or children who are affected by it.

Why I Wish to Serve

With mounting issues facing our community now and in the future, there are so many opportunities for the community to come together to help solve them, which can lead to immense local benefits. When my wife and I moved to Madison, I began thinking of ways to get involved in meaningful ways to make not just our community, but also our city, a home. Now that we've welcomed our first child to our family, I believe there is no time like the present to get involved. I want to set an example for my son that public service is of paramount importance and that we should seek opportunities to use our talents and abilities for the public good. I wish to serve on the Common Council so that I can be a voice for my community and move our city forward. With many people's main focus being on national politics (especially these days), it's easy for some to forget that local government affects our day-to-day lives. By serving on the Common Council, my goal is to help benefit our family's, friends', and neighbors' day-to-day lives and create a community that is unparalleled to any other. I want to serve on the Common Council so that we don't waste the opportunity Madison has to grow into a powerhouse city inspirational to other municipalities.

What I Wish to Accomplish

As previously mentioned, there are many issues facing us at the local, statewide, and national level. The Common Council has the opportunity to work on those issues and impact countless lives. Not all these situations have the ability to be easily "accomplished" (or, "solved") however, and some will take a lot of time and effort. A few of the issues I want to focus on are listed below:

I would like to work with the Council on homelessness and housing insecurity. If we consider housing to be a human right, we need to take steps that (a) reduce—without criminalizing—homelessness and (b) adequately plan for and require sufficient affordable housing. We also need to make sure the affordable housing and shelters are in locations that do not remove those persons from the heart of society and the economy, but rather in places that give them the best opportunities to thrive. Madison is in a unique position in Wisconsin where we have a relatively young and fast-growing population. In fact, five of the top ten fastest growing cities are within Dane County, which provides an even greater imperative for Madison to lead the way on housing security.

I would also like to work with the Council on fostering a strong economy in Madison. The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic recovery since has brought many challenges, and it is important that we learn from what went right and what went wrong. I want to work with the Council to position our city in a way that provides, among other things, equitable employment opportunities (particularly the opportunity for easier upward economic mobility) and support for small business growth and development. Related, our city needs to create a budget that both benefits its citizens and ensures that employers and organizations within our community have the

full freedom to grow. By balancing business concerns with the rights and wellbeing of the worker, it is possible that the positive impact moves beyond just attracting both employers and employees, but towards an economy that creates competition amongst business to attract workers (thus creating opportunities for greater worker benefits) and that provides the opportunity and incentives for companies to innovate. We also need to make sure that we are helping match employers with employees and helping the workforce operate at full strength.

As a community anchored by a large research university, I would like to work with the Council to lean into our close relationship with UW-Madison (and other local colleges) and consider commissioning studies to assist our decision-making when it comes to important issues. Being more analytical-minded, I think it is important that we have all the facts and consider all the differing viewpoints on an issue. We should be leveraging our relationship with university researchers that can give us unbiased research outcomes. Related, many other community organizations have compiled their own research and public opinion. Their assistance, voices, and insight are critical to moving the city forward.

Overall, the most easily attainable accomplishment I am committed to is making sure I and the Common Council are honest, transparent, dedicated, motivated, involved, respectful, inquisitive, listening, and hard-working. These are some of the qualities I will bring to the Council, and these qualities, if held amongst the Council, puts the Council in a position to operate at it's best and in a way that almost guarantees positive results throughout the community.

Whether I Plan to Run for Alder in the Spring 2023 Election

While I am highly interested in running for alderperson in the Spring 2023 election, I am hesitant to declare that I plan to run, in part due to the fact that this is an unusual situation where I, or another, would be appointed to the Common Council. Before formally declaring an intent to run in the Spring 2023 election, I believe it is one's duty to discuss with community members at large. Failure to do so is the failure to perform due diligence. Furthermore, as an additional reason why I am hesitant to declare now, some may consider an appointment to the Common Council to be an endorsement of future candidacy, and to avoid appearance of anything other than a democratic-republic form of government at full strength, I will abstain from formally declaring my intent at this point.