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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Coalition, City Leaders, and Neighborhoods Rally at City Hall for Urgent Passage of Housing Element Plan

Milwaukee, WI — On Monday morning, community advocates, residents, and local officials gathered at City Hall in a powerful demonstration of support for Milwaukee's **Housing Element Plan**, urging the **Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development (ZND) Committee** and the **Common Council** to pass the long-awaited plan before the summer recess.

Organized by the Together for Homes coalition, the event brought Aldermanic sponsors, housing advocates, and supporters to the rotunda, where they collectively called for swift action to adopt the plan. With rising housing costs, increasing displacement, and longstanding racial disparities in housing access, advocates stressed that Milwaukee can't afford to delay this opportunity to advance housing justice.

"Milwaukee residents made their voices heard this morning: the time to act is now. The Housing Element plan is a critical step toward a future where all Milwaukeeans have access to an affordable home. We urge our city leaders to seize this moment and pass the plan before recess," said **Montavius Jones, spokesperson for Together for Homes.**

Montavius also cited the June poll commissioned by Together for Homes, convened by 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. *"Today, housing cost and availability is the #1 issue for voters under 35 in Milwaukee. It's the #2 issue overall, right behind public safety. 80% say Milwaukee does not have enough homes that regular people can afford to buy or rent. 67% say buying a home is a major problem. Nearly three-fourths of registered voters support allowing multiple homes—duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes—on one lot."*

The Housing Element plan—developed through years of public engagement and consensus building—provides a comprehensive framework to guide the city's housing policies, focusing on affordability, anti-displacement, preservation, tenant protections, and pathways to homeownership.

One of the sponsors of the plan, **Alderspersion JoCasta Zamarripa**, stated at Monday's event, *"I am here today to represent over 58% of Milwaukeeans who rent their housing, like I do. I can tell you that the rent is skyrocketing here in Milwaukee. We need to address this housing crisis. And updating our city's comprehensive plan with the Housing Element to increase a diversity of housing options is a good first step!"*

Meldoy McCurtis, Deputy Director at Metcalfe Park Community Bridges, stated “A powerful shift has occurred, from living rooms to council chambers, we the people showed up. It is the product of what can happen when people commit to hard conversations, deep listening, and collective visions. This plan begins to honor our past, reflect our present, and chart a future where safe, accessible, affordable, and desirable housing is not a privilege, but a right for all Milwaukeeans.

I am proud to say this plan reflects the work of my neighbors and organization, Metcalfe Park Community Bridges. It reflects the tireless organizers of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, the leadership of Dynasty Ceasar, the deep-rooted commitment of Walnut Way and the passion of Lindsey Heights who fought tooth and nail to send this plan back to the community so that it could finally reflect the people.”

The City Plan Commission, a citizen-led legislative body, unanimously approved the Housing Element file at City Hall on June 2, 2025. Property owners, renters, community organizations, residents, and alderpeople spoke in favor of the plan, which demonstrates the strength and thoughtfulness of this plan.

We deeply appreciate all who spoke and attended this urgent call to action. **Sponsors of the Housing Element Plan, Alderperson Zamarripa, Alderwoman Moore, and Alderman Chambers** have been tireless advocates of common-sense housing policy reform.

Melody McCurtis (Metcalfe Park Community Bridges), Dynasty Ceasar (Midtown Neighborhood Alliance), Kevin Kuschel (Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative), Jim Villa (NAIOP), and Montavius Jones (Together for Homes) continue to ensure passage of Housing Element and fight for more attainable housing options for all Milwaukeeans.

Over 20 coalition members and Housing Element supporters, including Alderman Alex Brower, stood firmly with the overwhelming majority of Milwaukeeans who want and need changes to our city’s housing options.

Together for Homes, a broad coalition of Milwaukee residents, community organizations, and housing advocates, continues to mobilize in support of the plan and will be tracking the progress of upcoming votes in both committee and the full Council.

More information:

- Together for Homes: togetherforhomes.org
- Housing Element Plan: engage.milwaukee.gov/HousingElement

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