

Dear Vice Chancellor Laliberte:

As board members of the Murray Hill Neighborhood Association, we have worked in good faith to become partners with UWM, hoping to make real progress on a clean, safe and quiet neighborhood surrounding UWM's campus. Our vision of a true collaborative partnership is one that values inclusion in decision making and planning and is managed through communication and transparency. We wish to continue as partners in those efforts. However, we think that consensus building and facilitating a plan with clear cut action items and schedules, with each partner taking ownership of particular items and dedicating individuals to work on those items is crucial for any hope of success. We think that at this point in time UWM has failed to see the merit in this approach. A branding strategy for a partnership is one thing, but actually affecting change is quite another. With less than two weeks before the beginning of the semester, we need to see more than a brand and a logo. We need to see plans set for the partners involved to reach the agreed upon outcomes.

To mention just one item, we have long discussed the importance of engaging the MPD as a partner. We believe that there was a missed opportunity to improve what we perceive to be to be a stressed working relationship between UWM and the MPD. In addition, our ability to demonstrate our commitment to the inclusion of the MPD as a partner in our collaborative effort was also lost. Can MPD, NA's, UWPD or MPD feel that we are true partners when the semester begins shortly, and there is a lack of a formal collaborative plan and schedule that we should have been developing? Although it may be true that UWM has clarity on their internal plan the inability of our member of the collaborative team to explain not only the specifics of your plan but the specifics or responsibilities of the NAs the MPD or the UWMPD is alarming.

As a member of the collaborative team we also must accept responsibility for the state of affairs and ask for your cooperation to resolve the issues that we see as obstacles to reaching our goal. We need to see the University adhering to the principals (Formal Communications, Methodology, Accountability, Best Practices) that are the framework for our collaborative effort and thus being a true partner. We as a board don't think we've reached that point, unfortunately. To our thinking, it's very important that we see something substantive to address our concerns at our meeting on Wednesday. We cannot and will not go back to our neighborhood association members and argue for partnership and cooperation and trust, if we ourselves as board members don't see that as forthcoming. We can't go back to our membership with a logo as the approach to the many real problems we face but rather what is needed is a plan that is transparent and holds us accountable. We look forward to your input at the next scheduled meeting.

Sincerely,

Murray Hill Neighborhood Association