

From: Sara Lachman
Sent: Friday, March 01, 2024 6:28 PM
To: City Clerk <cityclerk@grand-rapids.mi.us>
Cc: bing.goei <bing.goei@easternfloral.com>
Subject: City Commissioner Appointment - Bing Goei

Mr. Hondorp –

I wanted to share my support for the City's consideration of an appointment of Bing Goei to serve as a City Commissioner. The bases for my support are below:

- I've known Bing for a number of years now. I have had the opportunity to discuss with Bing at length and on many occasions strategies to strengthen diversity in our city, grow and strengthen our small business (especially Minority and Women-Owned businesses), attract and retain multi-cultural talent to our city, improving civil discourse on community issues, and increasing engagement from diverse voices in critical community conversations.
- I have found Bing to be so uniquely capable of providing thoughtful response to challenging circumstances, that I have often his counsel on matters related to business and civil engagement. I have also made a point to introduce my mentees to him so that they too have the opportunity to hear his perspectives and learn from strategies that he's employed.
- Bing is also uniquely sensitive to both the needs of small business owners and those enduring poverty. He seems to approach nothing with a one-sided mentality but rather with an appreciation of the collective.

If Bing is appointed, no doubt that he will be capable to hit the ground running. He prepares, he engages, he asks questions, he listens and considers answers, he is a natural connector, he creates calm in chaos, he elevates the conversation, he inspires others to approach problems with a servant-leader mindset. He understands budgets and practical limitations. He appreciates and adheres to process but recognizes and addresses how decisions can unintentionally disproportionately impact certain groups and proactively works to prevent disparate impact.

I am not the leader that Bing is. He is a role model to me and many others. That said, I do not uniformly agree with Bing. He and I disagree on items, as people do. But perhaps that highlights what makes Bing the right person to appoint: If, in the capacity as a City Commissioner, Bing made a decision that I disagreed with, I would still respect the decision because I trust his integrity and process for reaching decisions.

Thank you for your consideration. - Sara

Sara Lachman
Managing Member

LACHMAN

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