Date: August 5, 2025

To:
The Honorable Members of the La Crosse Common Council
La Crosse City Hall
400 La Crosse St.
La Crosse, WI 54601

RE: Letter of Support for Resolution to Install Operating ADA-Compliant Drinking Fountains (Bubblers)

Dear Members of the La Crosse Common Council,

On behalf of the undersigned community members and organizations who work directly with people living unsheltered in La Crosse, we write in full support of the proposed resolution to restore and install functioning, ADA-compliant drinking fountains (bubblers) at identified locations throughout the city.

Access to clean, potable water is a basic human necessity and a public health imperative. For our unsheltered neighbors, especially during the dangerously hot and humid summer months, the availability of safe drinking water can be a matter of life and death. Unfortunately, the current reality of numerous inoperable or non-compliant drinking fountains creates a barrier that disproportionately impacts those already experiencing extreme hardship.

We would also like to express our sincere gratitude for the recently installed, ADA-compliant water fountain at 4th and King. This addition has already had a noticeable and positive impact—providing vital hydration and relief for individuals in the area, especially those without shelter or access to indoor facilities. It demonstrates the City's commitment to inclusive infrastructure and thoughtful public service.

We applaud the City's acknowledgment of this broader issue through the current resolution and appreciate the continued effort to ensure equitable access to water across La Crosse. Ensuring that all new and restored bubblers are ADA compliant also recognizes the diverse needs of our community, including people with disabilities.

We encourage swift implementation of this resolution and offer our continued partnership and support in identifying needs, sharing information with impacted individuals, and ensuring the public knows where safe water is available.

Thank you for your leadership and compassion in addressing this critical public health issue.

Sincerely,

Daniella Nelson, BSW

Mario Youakim, Beer By Bike Brigade

Megan [illegible]

Rebecca Boswood

Rebecca Grew[illegible]

[illegible]

Debra A. Murray

Ben [illegible]

Susan Graf, WINN, inc.