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Common Council
Safety and Development Committee
West Allis, WI

RE: Home Remodeling Website Opportunity

Dear Council Members:

I would like to inform you of a new opportunity that has been presented to the City of West Allis Department of Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services to partner with a home remodeling website, Houzz.com.

Houzz.com is one of the largest home remodeling resource websites in the country with over 1 million professionals, 12 million photos and 40 million users each month. The website partners home owners thinking about remodeling with ideas, products, designers and contractors across the country. Contractors and designers are rated and can be sorted by area and specialty. Home owners have access to a vast library of ideas, colors schemes and anything they can hope for when thinking about remodeling their house.

One of the complaints the website often hears is the lack of information about the permitting process and building codes. The website took this into consideration and is planning a new category on their website that they will unveil in early 2017. This new section will be for municipalities and their building inspection departments.

Houzz.com has reached out to the City of West Allis to ask if we would be willing to participate in being one of the initial 10-15 municipalities across the country in this new category. There is no cost or fee for the City, and Houzz.com would maintain and update the information on the website. The City's page would have helpful links for people looking to remodel in West Allis, such as our municipal code, permit applications and fee schedules. It would also provide contact information for anyone with questions. This opportunity will continue to showcase West Allis as being on the cutting edge of building inspection technology in the country.

I see this as a fantastic opportunity to showcase West Allis and to improve communication with our home owners and contractors. If we partner with them now, we can be up and running by the end of the year. If you have any questions, I am more than willing to answer them or provide additional information.

Sincerely,

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