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NIKIYA DODD

Alderwoman, 5th District

June 10, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

I submit this letter in support of Western Building Products (Western) for the planned development at 7007 and 7007-R North 115th Street at the Joy Farm property. I also request the approval of zoning change for the planned development by this commission on the bases of the following:

In February, my office planned to host a neighborhood meeting for homeowners on North 115th Street; and to residents within a 300 feet radius of the property at 7007 and 7007-R North 115th Street at the Joy Farm property. The meeting was postponed to a later date in March after I was informed about the potential financial burden assessed to the homeowners for the sewer hookup after a briefing with the Departments of Public Works (DPW) and City Development (DCD). At that time, I also postponed the introduction of a zoning change that was scheduled before the Common Council in early March.

Since the community meeting held on March 19, 2019, I have remained involved, accessible, and responsive to neighbors, Western, DCD, and DPW representatives to discuss various plans and review drafts for the potential sewer hookup. Additionally, I have visited neighbors at their home and toured the proposed development site at Joy Farm guided by longtime resident Bruce Winters. Throughout my correspondences with each of the parties, I have encouraged and facilitated opportunities for neighbors to continue working closely with the owners of Western and representatives of DCD and DPW to share concerns of proposed drafts, including recommendations for alternative sewer hookup routes.

Therefore, my decision to move forward on introducing the zoning change file #190159 at the Common Council meeting on April 16, 2019, was determined after countless hours of deliberations on proposed sewer hookup plans and recommendations by neighbors, Western, and DCD and DPW. Western's unwavering commitment to open and transparent communication with neighbors, DCD, DPW, and my office, and the zero (0) out-of-pocket costs to the affected homeowners for the sewer hookup. Western has relieved the burden off of affected homeowners the responsibility of hiring a contractor to install and connect the laterals of a new sewer hookup and will restore the homeowner's property to, as good as or better than conditions when finished.