

From: Dominique Samari <dominique@p3developmentgroup.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 9:01 PM
To: Connelly, Kristin D. <Kristin.Connelly@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Bronzeville Interim Overlay: Letter of Support

Good evening, Kristin -

I am writing to express my support for the interim Bronzeville Overlay that will require new businesses to be approved by BOZA while the study is being conducted.

I am a resident and home owner in Bronzeville - I reside on Vel Phillips just north of North Avenue and am also a business owner in the community - my offices are located on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive.

As development increases in Harambee and Halyard Park, it is critically important to create additional barriers for undesirable development - especially along the Bronzeville commercial corridors.

Over the last decade, I have watched Alderwoman Coggs, residents and business leaders in the neighborhood cast and begin to implement a vision for the neighborhood. The efforts over the past decade have been substantial and are just starting to bear fruit. It is this vision that attracted me to invest in the neighborhood. And, I am grateful to witness and now be a part of that vision.

And that vision is just within reach but within just the last few months, as a resident and business owner, I have watched and voiced concern about some of the businesses who are contemplating or have decided to move to the neighborhood.

Of course, there are others who seek to benefit from those same efforts but whose personal visions do not align with the vision for the neighborhood. They seek only to come and take from the neighborhood - not to contribute.

This is why the interim overlay is so critically important. It is important ,at this critical juncture, to ensure that we are putting in place the stop gaps that will allow the vision for the neighborhood to come to fruition.

And at a time when racial equity has become a focal point and priority in our city and nation, there can be no question that decisions like this one cut to the practical heart of the matter and address issues of both equity and inclusion at the neighborhood level.

I kindly request you to strongly consider my letter of support as you all discuss the possibility of the overlay at tomorrow's hearing.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need additional information or if you have any questions or concerns about what I've shared in this letter of support.

Dominique Samari

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