







Hill District Ministers Alliance (HDMA)



March 4, 2021

Mike Polite

Via email: mpolite@BeaconCommunitiesLLC.com

RE: Amended Letter of Support - Letsche Adaptive Reuse

Dear Mr. Polite:

On behalf of the Hill District's Development Review Panel (DRP), we offer this amended letter of support to you based on the November 2020 submission for the Letsche Adaptive Reuse proposal, January 2021 DRP Committee Presentation, February 2021 Community Presentation, and the March 3, 2021 discussion with the DRP Committee regarding the change in ownership structure for the development entity Catalyst Communities. Details about this submission can be found at www.hilldistrict.org/letscheschool.

The mission of the Hill CDC is to work in partnership with residents and stakeholders to create, promote, and implement strategies and programs that connect plans, policies, and people to drive compelling community development opportunities in the Greater Hill District. The Hill CDC is responsible for facilitating the implementation of the Greater Hill District Master Plan ("GHDMP"), specifically addressing any community concerns regarding redevelopment and economic opportunities in the area. The DRP is the Hill District's unified and comprehensive community review process that gives every Hill District resident a voice in the redevelopment of their neighborhood. It is a partnership with six (6) Hill District Community Based Organizations: Hill Community Development Corporation (Hill CDC), Hill District Education Council (HDEC), Hill District Ministers Alliance (HDMA), Uptown Partners, Hill District Consensus Group (HDCG) and the Center that Cares that streamlines community level review while assuring transparency and sufficient community feedback.

The Letsche Adaptive Reuse proposal scored a cumulative 80% - B, at the DRP Committee and community review levels. In order to receive a letter of support a proposal must receive a minimum cumulative score of 80% to demonstrate sufficient alignment with the GHDMP. The DRP offered an initial letter of support on February 10, 2021 under the understanding that the development would be completed by Catalyst Communities. Following the DRP Committee presentation, however, a change in the ownership structure of the development entity Catalyst Communities was finalized to become a fully integrated office of Beacon Communities. Our community plan, the GHDMP, prioritizes Minority Business Enterprise and Community Based Organizational ownership. This was particularly important given the historic nature of the Letsche School structure. As such, the DRP requested a meeting to discuss this change. Based on that meeting the development team has agreed to discuss opportunities for community controls to ensure preservation of the asset and the affordability in the future beyond the compliance period(s). As such, we offer this amended letter of support conditioned upon those future discussions and resolution.

We look forward to continuing to engage on community controls, wish you the best in your development endeavors, and look forward to continuing to support this development project.

Lastly, we request that you keep the DRP updated on the progress of the project, such as funding awards, as well as any additional changes to the project. These updates should be emailed to Felicity Williams, Esq., *Programs and Policy Manager*, at fwilliams@hilldistrict.org when they are available. As before, if a change is significant, the DRP may request that you attend a DRP meeting to give an updated presentation.

Congratulations again!

Sincerely

Marimba Milliones
President and CEO

Cc:

Greg Flisram, URA
Daniel Gilman, Mayor's Office
City Councilman Daniel Lavelle
State Representative Jake Wheatley
Jennifer DiNardo, Beacon Communities