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Via email

City of Saint Paul
Department of Planning and Economic Development
25 West Fourth Street, Suite 1400
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Attn: Kady Dadlez, Senior City Planner kady.dadlez@ci.stpaul.mn.us

RE: Treehouse Affordable Apartments Letter of Support for Land Use Approvals

Dear Kady,

I write to express my support for the Trellis's planned Treehouse project located in the Highland Park Neighborhood. My understanding is that Trellis's project involves a 5 story, new construction senior apartment building, with all of the planned units being affordable.

As a long-time resident of Saint Paul (1985-2008) and having recently returned to Saint Paul, I believe projects like Treehouse are critical to addressing the affordable housing crisis in our community, city and region. For example, recent studies by Saint Paul's own Wilder Foundation have indicated seniors represent the fastest growing homeless demographic in Minnesota. The Treehouse project will directly confront this issue through the creation of new affordable senior homes, including a portion set-aside for formally homeless individuals. Professionally, I have spent much of my career advocating for, financing, developing and otherwise advancing affordable housing. I have learned that when opportunities like the Treehouse project present themselves, they must be seized. I have also learned that concerns about a proposed housing development don't last long when existing neighbors get to know their new neighbors.

I am also confident that Trellis's planned project has been thoughtfully conceived to fit into the neighborhood's existing character and minimize impacts on surrounding property owners. It's my understanding that the project will be nestled into the hillside, thereby helping to reduce the project's overall sense of scale and the required disruption the surrounding landscape. I also recognize that the site selected yields enormous benefits for the future residents Trellis will be able to serve, including access to transit, access to retail along West Seventh and proximity to services available via the Highland Chateau.

Finally, I have had the pleasure of working with the Trellis organization numerous times over my many years of working in the community. Simply put, the organization is one of the best at doing this important work in the Twin Cities and I have the utmost confidence that Trellis and Treehouse will positively contribute to the Highland community for many years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my support for the Treehouse project.

Sincerely,



Tim Marx