



June 3, 2015

City Council President Russ Stark
Saint Paul City Council
15 West Kellogg Boulevard, 310-D
Saint Paul, MN 55102

RE: West Side Flats Master Plan and Development Guidelines
and Zoning Ordinance 15-20 Public Hearing

Dear Council President Stark:

The goal of the Saint Paul Port Authority is to protect industrial land, support the existing industrial uses in the area, and preserve the space for industrial uses in the future.

Regarding RES PH 15-123, the Port Authority supports this proposed Resolution and the proposed amendments to it. Regarding Ord 15-20, the Port Authority supports this proposed Ordinance and the proposed amendments to it.

We appreciate Council Member Thune bringing forward this revised language that provides the much-needed balance in this Plan of both area improvements for the residential community, and the retention and welcomed growth of industrial businesses, with their substantial jobs and tax base.

The Plan language amendments are consistent with the Comprehensive Plan statements regarding strong business retention efforts and recognition of economic assets of area businesses. They are also consistent with the Saint Paul Industrial Study completed a few years ago by the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), and with a recent report of the American Planning Association on urban industrial development.

Regarding Ord.15-20 pertaining to the proposed re-zoning of the Red Cross campus along the east side of Robert Street, the Port Authority supports the Ordinance language and Council Member Thune's efforts to accommodate the business functions of the Red Cross on their campus.

During Plan development, the Port Authority took a close look at the land to the west of Robert Street within the Plan boundary. Because this area has been guided for other uses for approximately ten years, we agreed to give up Industrial growth in this area,

City Council President Russ Stark
June 3, 2015
Page -2-

and have been focusing on the east side of Robert Street and beyond, to the east to Hwy. 52.

We've been pleased to have been involved throughout the process, serving on and providing input to the Planning Commission's Task Force. We also worked over a year and a half ago with the City's PED Director and staff to attempt to arrive at an agreement on the necessity for giving credence to the existence and future growth of industrial businesses in the West Side Flats. Please see the three letters I sent to the PED Director, each of which followed significant discussions with both our teams.

We urge the City Council to adopt these Amendments. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Louis F. Jambois", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Louis F. Jambois
President

Attachment

cc: Lorrie Louder, Senior Vice President,
Business & Intergovernmental Affairs