

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to state my support for JB Vang's proposed redevelopment of the city-owned portion of the former Hamm's Brewery site on Saint Paul's East Side.

JB Vang's proposal includes much needed affordable housing at the site with a range of affordability from 30% to 60% AMI. Because 60% AMI roughly equates to the average income in Saint Paul, this housing will directly benefit the current residents of this area. The project combines 110 units of family-friendly new construction with 86 units of artist style loft housing in the historic brewery buildings to provide an array of options.

The substantial outdoor site improvements in JB Vang's proposal will also significantly improve the connectivity of the whole site for pedestrians and bicyclists to move to and through the space, utilizing new connections the community has expressed as a priority. The new indoor and outdoor spaces provide for community gatherings and event opportunities, which will also serve the larger community.

The redevelopment plan put forth by JB Vang will reactivate several of the long-standing vacant buildings on the property and help achieve several of the community's goals and priorities for this area. This plan has significant community support because of the future benefits it will bring to the neighborhood, including much needed affordable housing, commercial opportunities for small and emerging businesses, bike and pedestrian connections to parks and trail amenities, and both indoor and outdoor community gathering and event spaces. Overall, the rehabilitation of these historic buildings and construction of new housing is an investment that centers the needs and desires of the community and will serve it well into the future.

Based on community concerns that have been voiced regarding parking for neighboring businesses, I appreciate that the developer JB Vang redesigned the new construction apartment building to add an approximately 70-stall surface parking amenity for commercial users of the site.

I believe that JB Vang is carrying out the development in a way that has been guided by community voices and reflects the spirit and values of the community. I support the ongoing efforts of the city to ensure this development is successfully completed.

Sincerely,



Commissioner Rafael Ortega
Ramsey County Board, District 5