

HIGHLAND VILLAGE APARTMENTS

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September 19, 2017

Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Boulevard West
310 City Hall
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Ladies and Gentlemen:

By this letter, the owners and managers of Highland Village Apartments give support to the redevelopment plan for the Ford Site. We urge the Saint Paul City Council to adopt the plan developed by the City's Planning Department.

We are long-term owners and managers of apartment properties. In fact, three of the five partners in the partnership, Jack Rice, Jim Phelps, and Mark Otness have been partners in the property for 31 years. The two of the other partners have been involved for 75 years.

Our westerly property line borders the Ford site for 600 feet. Accordingly, we've been involved since 2007 in meetings about the future uses of the site and how those uses would affect our property. We have closely followed and participated in the process and hopefully contributed materially to the thinking behind the plan before you on September 20th.

We support the plan and its overall vision for the site. Specifically:


- We like the description in the plan that includes "the site will be woven into the existing community and support walking, biking, transit and connections to the river and water amenities."
- We support the focus on residential uses and their scale.
- We believe the proposed amenities, bike and walking paths, water features and park lands to be in the best interests of our tenants and our property.
- While there will be changes along the way, we look forward to what the implementation of the Ford plan will bring.

We commend Jonathon Sage-Martinson, the Planning Staff and especially Merritt Clapp-Smith and Mike Richardson for their professionalism and courtesy throughout the process.

Our property has been an important and iconic part of the Highland Park area of St. Paul for 75 years. We will be responsible neighbors to the Ford redevelopment and will continue to provide courteously managed, well maintained apartment living for the Highland Park neighborhood.

We intend to fully participate in future decisions with the eventual developer, city staff and elected officials, as development becomes a reality. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Otness', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mark Otness