

I write to express my concern about the resolution sponsored by Councilmember Noecker to stop the city from creating a new TIF district for the Midway Shopping center site. While I do have some concerns about overuse of TIF financing, I strongly believe that it is premature to block this tool before any proposals are brought forward for consideration.

As a resident of the Macalester-Groveland area, I believe that we need to ensure that every part of our city thrives. We've had a lot of exciting development in the city, particularly downtown and in some affluent neighborhoods. But the Frogtown and Midway areas haven't seen that kind of development.

The soccer stadium and the redevelopment of the Midway Shopping Center site offer tremendous potential to make a blighted region come to life, create good paying jobs, bring many more people to the area and create a lot of interest and excitement for the city as a whole. Yes, this will cost public money and we need to make sure the investment of public funds reaps a benefit. But it is premature to take the TIF tool off the table now. I believe the City Council (with community input) should evaluate the merits of proposals for the Midway's development, and the possible use of TIF, as these proposals come forward. Why tie up the hands of the city now? Please vote no to this resolution.

Thank you.

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