



October 23, 2023

To: Saint Paul City Councilmembers, SPPR Director Andy Rodriguez

Subject: Urging Support of Resolution 23-1649; 10/25/23

I am contacting you in support of the United Village POPS agreements. The resolution approving the agreements is on this Wednesday's City Council Agenda.

I support these agreements and associated private investments as good for the Midway and Saint Paul. The Sanneh Foundation offices are a proud neighbor of this site on University Avenue. We are invested in the success of the Midway. Advancing development at the United Village site is good for University Avenue with benefits far beyond the United Village site. Starting development with high-quality public realm is a great first step.

I support these agreements and associated private investments as innovative public/private partnerships. I feel that as a service partner of the City at Conway Recreation Center, I offer some insights as to the importance of partnership. Our great Parks and Recreation Department cannot and should not be expected to do everything. The extensive Green Line planning called for POPS. Having partners willing and able to create world-class public spaces, and make them available to the community expands on the value and impact for what we are all doing in Saint Paul for families, visitors, and residents.

I support these agreements believing in the value and benefit that MN United, its owners, and stakeholders bring to the community. As with the Sanneh Foundation, they are often first associated with soccer - but I know they do so much more. I have direct experience working with these leaders on things that are both prominent and things that are less obvious and less in the public eye. I look forward to a future of collaboration between the Sanneh Foundation and investors in the United Village that moves Saint Paul forward.

I believe in the potential these investments represent. I believe in the capacity of those doing it to get to done, and get it done in a great way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tony Sanneh'.

Tony Sanneh
Chief Executive Officer