To the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Re: Rice & Larpenteur Alliance

Dear HRA members:

I have been actively involved in the Rice and Larpenteur neighborhood for about ten years now, beginning with the North End Development Team, then the Rice & Larpenteur Vision Plan citizens advisory group, and finally as Chair of the Rice & Larpenteur Alliance (RLA) Board. Looking back over that time, it is incredible the revitalization of the neighborhood, in terms of community pride, public safety, and business activity.

Rice Street is being improved as a safer, more transit-, bike- and pedestrian-friendly corridor, including sidewalks and pedestrian crossings on Rice and Lapenteur. Many new wonderful restaurants have opened during that time. Crime is way down, particularly since the closing of the Myth nightclub and the Lamplighter Lounge. And there is just a sense of community and pride of place that did not exist ten years ago.

This is the result of the work of many people and organizations – the Cities of Saint Paul, Roseville, and Maplewood; Ramsey County; local churches, schools, and neighborhood organizations; businesses along the corridor; and active and engaged local residents. The RLA has played a crucial role as a hub and convenor, bringing together the various interested folks to share ideas, create a vision for the neighborhood, and work hard to make it come to life. I truly believe we wouldn't be where we are today without the laser focus of the RLA on improving the neighborhood.

The RLA would not have been able to accomplish its work without the support of the City of Saint Paul. The time, energy, and financial support of the City and its staff and elected officials have been critical to our success. **Your continued financial support is necessary for us to keep performing this important work.**

I realize that finances at the City are tight currently, and having worked for many years as a partner for a private business in Roseville, through good times and bad, I know that hard budgetary decisions are often necessary. I would just ask that you consider this an investment in the neighborhood and understand that **Saint Paul funding has been and would continue to be leveraged over many other supporters to multiply the effective benefit to the community.**

I thank you so much for your past support of the Rice & Larpenteur Alliance and for your consideration of continuing this support.

Dan Edgerton

RLA Board Chair