August 10, 2026

Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority
Saint Paul City Hall
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Attention: Chair Cheniqua Johnson, Vice-Chair Saura Jost, Secretary HwaJeong Kim, and Treasurer Nelsie Yang

Dear Chair Johnson and Commissioners:

We are pleased to take this opportunity to provide our insight into the importance of the Rice & Larpenteur Alliance (RLA), and to encourage Saint Paul to continue its support hand-in-hand with your neighbors to the north.

The RLA was formed specifically to advocate for and coordinate delivery of resources to a unique neighborhood that spans 3 cities. The neighborhood is home to both long-time residents and businesses as well as recent immigrants and entrepreneurial start-ups. Issues such as problem businesses, infrastructure neglect, and public safety concerns had led to real livability concerns for the people who live and do business in the neighborhood. Those issues tended to dominate the image of what is under the surface a community of hard-working people with vibrant cultures who are trying every day to succeed.

The uniqueness of the RLA, and its real effectiveness, has been the ability to draw on and multiply the resources of all 3 cities, as well as Ramsey County, to make a difference for the people. Examples include advocacy for and completion of updates to the pedestrian connections on the Saint Paul side of the intersection, successful lobbying of Metro Transit for the proposed G Line along Rice Street, partnership with Ramsey County on the Rice Street reconstruction project – all phases, development of a joint community vision to guide development along the corridor, partnership with the Federal EPA's Technical Assistance for Brownfields program to develop an inventory of sites to assist prospective developers, and of course community building events in all 3 cities, including the upcoming Summer Block Party on August 15th.

As the RLA continues its transition from primarily city funding to primarily community resident and business and grant funding, city support remains important to bridge the gap. Maplewood and Roseville are committed to the success of the RLA, and to providing that bridge funding. We encourage our neighbors in Saint Paul to continue our partnership in that way as well.

Kindest regards,

Marylee Abrams

Marylee Abrams
Mayor of Maplewood

Dan Roe
Mayor of Roseville