

September 20, 2017

Saint Paul City Council 15 Kellogg Blvd. West 310 City Hall Saint Paul, MN 55102

As the City of St. Paul continues to consider the future of the Ford Site, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity would like to voice its support of the <u>housing affordability goals</u> included in the Ford Site Master Plan:

- 10% of housing units affordable to households earning 60% of the average median income
- 10% of housing units affordable to households earning 50% of the average median income
- Affordable units should be a mix of housing types
- Provide affordable units within mixed-income buildings
- Locate affordable units throughout the site

Housing affordability is a critical issue for our region, the City of St. Paul, and the Highland Park neighborhood, and will require intentional investments to provide a range of housing opportunities to meet changing demographic trends. Increasing and preserving access to affordable housing is central to cultivating and preserving healthy communities—especially in areas where few affordable options exist. St. Paul's aging housing stock requires innovative and proactive strategies to create the additional housing units needed to provide choices for current residents, as well as to support continued growth.

As an active member of the statewide Homes for All coalition, Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity supports a housing strategy with a range of affordable rental and homeownership options to promote access to safe, quality, affordable housing across the housing continuum. The Ford Site is an opportunity to expand fair and affordable housing opportunities, which will benefit St. Paul for generations to come.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan Haigh

President & CEO

Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Swan High