

March 17, 2015


City of St. Paul
Residential & Economic Development Task Force – CIB
700 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102-1658

Dear Residential & Economic Development Task Force Members:

I am writing to show my support for Model Cities' proposed development at the Central Exchange site. I live on Sherburne Avenue, very close to the site, and I am excited about the possibilities that the project brings to the community. This area of Frogtown has been underinvested for some time, and with the Light Rail now open, opportunities for business growth in the neighborhood will become more available in the coming years. Model Cities will help kick-start that process through the projects it is developing, including Central Exchange. This development is important because it provides good quality housing, which will be available for local residents, and the physical space for commercial enterprises to get established and become successful.

I have seen Model Cities successfully carry out projects that have made real improvements in the neighborhood, and this previous experience should bode well for its continued success with this new project. I look forward to Central Exchange coming to the neighborhood, and I know this building will be an asset that will help lift up this community for a long time to come. I encourage your strong support of this project.

Sincerely,



Prince Smith
Homeowner
803 Sherburne
St. Paul, MN 55104



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

DAI THAO
Councilmember

March 16, 2015

City of St. Paul
Residential & Economic Development Task Force – CIB
700 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102-1658

Dear Residential & Economic Development Task Force Members:

I write to urge your strong support of Model Cities' 2016-2017 CIB application for its Central Exchange project. I believe this initiative is one of the most promising along the Green Line and will build upon the momentum created by the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit.

With the Light Rail having recently begun operations, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to build the economy that will help neighborhoods like Summit University and Frogtown realize their vast potential. Fortunately, Model Cities has a forward-thinking approach and a plan to make a real economic impact within the Victoria Street Station Area that will reverberate along the Avenue.

In addition to quality housing, the project will provide commercial space that will create opportunities for smaller businesses or organizations to start or expand their operations. These are just the kinds of investments that are needed to catalyze further commercial growth along the Corridor. The project will also include green space as well as public art that will highlight the rich history of African American railroad workers that made up the fabric of the community for decades. Central Exchange will complement Model Cities BROWNstone project, located just a block away. Together, these developments will create a real economic impact in the neighborhood and make the Victoria Street Station Area one of the most vibrant stretches of University Avenue.

Our community has come a long way since the foreclosure crisis that affected so many of our neighborhoods. With the economy on an upward trend, and with major new initiatives like the Light Rail, the time is right to make the investments that will continue to propel our economy forward and make our community stronger than it has ever been. Through this new project, Model Cities will build upon its 30-year track record of successful community-based development in order to expand wealth and opportunity in our neighborhood. Please support this important project. Thank you for considering my letter, and I welcome the opportunity for you to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Dai Thao
Saint Paul City Councilmember – Ward One



Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7)

685 Minnehaha Avenue West • Saint Paul, MN • 55104
Tel: 651-789-7407 • Fax: 651-789-7482 • www.frogtownmn.org

March 13, 2015

City of St. Paul
Residential & Economic Development Task Force – CIB
700 City Hall
15 West Kellogg Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55102-1658

Dear Residential & Economic Development Task Force Members:

I write this letter on behalf of the Frogtown Neighborhood Association (District 7) to show our support for Model Cities' Central Exchange project. District 7 has engaged in a community process with Model Cities as the project has evolved over the last several years, and we see it as a great opportunity to make an important investment along the new Green Line. This site will provide new housing opportunities that are affordable to low and moderate income households, as well as commercial space that will bring new economic opportunities to the community. The project will also help connect residents of the building to jobs throughout the region due to its location close to the LRT stop at Victoria and University.

We appreciate the relationship built between Model Cities and the Frogtown community. Present Frogtown residents look forward to accessing the rental opportunities afforded by the project.

The Central Exchange building will bring increased vibrancy to the neighborhood and provide a stepping stone for new businesses to start up or for existing businesses to expand. This site will also contribute to a customer base that will sustain small, local enterprises and help maintain the diverse mix of businesses along University, thus enlivening the commercial corridor and having a significant economic impact on the neighborhood as a whole.

With enhanced choices for quality housing, new and expanding businesses, as well as public art and green space that will be part of the development, Central Exchange will create a key amenity in Frogtown. We encourage you to support this new community asset and the economic opportunities that are sure to follow. Thank you for your time and please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Yours Sincerely,

Caty Royce
Director
Frogtown Neighborhood Association



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OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

DAI THAO
Councilmember

March 16, 2015

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Sincerely,

Dai Thao
Saint Paul City Councilmember – Ward One