

CITY OF SAINT PAUL OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL

Councilmember

February 28, 2013

Re: Capitol Improvement Budget proposal for Model Cities' Old Home MCASA Homes

Members of the CIB Committee:

I am writing in support of Model Cities' Capitol Improvement Budget proposal for \$270,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding toward the MCASA Homes townhome development at the Old Home Dairy site near University Avenue.

The MCASA Homes program has a solid record of transforming disinvested properties in the University Avenue area into quality homeownership opportunities which are affordable for working families. Model Cities' proposed MCASA development at the Old Home site is a timely next step for this highly impactful program.

As you may be aware, work will soon be under way to redevelop the historic Old Home Dairy into a mix of apartments, artists' studios, and retail space. The addition of Model Cities' MCASA townhomes will ensure the restoration of this site includes a high quality, affordable, owner occupied housing within a quarter mile of bus and light rail transit; all goals that are articulated in Saint Paul's comprehensive plan. In addition, the buyers for these new homes will be required to complete homebuyer education including pre-purchase training and counseling, further advancing goals in the comprehensive plan and contributing to neighborhood stability.

I am confident this project will further efforts to revitalize neighborhoods along the University Ave. I encourage you to join me in lending this project your support.

Sincerely,

Melvin W. Carter

Councilmember-Ward 1

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