

Crawford, Nicole

202100237

From: Edwards, Michelle
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:10 AM
To: Crawford, Nicole
Cc: Michael, Rahiel
Subject: Re: [External Email] Liberty & Elm Hearing - In Favor - Economic Growth & Zoning Committee - Jan 20, 2021

Hello Nicole,

Vice Mayor Smitherman has no problem with adding this as a communication to his EGZ committee agenda.

Kindly,
Michelle

From: Crawford, Nicole <nicole.crawford@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:03 AM
To: Smitherman, Christopher <Christopher.Smitherman@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Ricke, Henry <Henry.Ricke@cincinnati-oh.gov>; Edwards, Michelle <Michelle.Edwards@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc: Michael, Rahiel <Rahiel.Michael@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Subject: RE: [External Email] Liberty & Elm Hearing - In Favor - Economic Growth & Zoning Committee - Jan 20, 2021

Please see below

From: Michael, Rahiel <Rahiel.Michael@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Crawford, Nicole <nicole.crawford@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email] Liberty & Elm Hearing - In Favor - Economic Growth & Zoning Committee - Jan 20, 2021

Can we please byleave into egz as a communication? So sorry to pile on!

From: Cranley, Mayor <mayor.cranley@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:01 AM
To: Michael, Rahiel <Rahiel.Michael@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Subject: FW: [External Email] Liberty & Elm Hearing - In Favor - Economic Growth & Zoning Committee - Jan 20, 2021

From:
Sent: Monday, January 18, 2021 4:04 PM
To: #COUNCIL <#COUNCIL@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Cc: CityManagerEmail <CityManager@cincinnati-oh.gov>
Subject: [External Email] Liberty & Elm Hearing - In Favor - Economic Growth & Zoning Committee - Jan 20, 2021

External Email Communication

Liberty & Elm hearing Jan 20,2021

January 18, 2021

Dear City Council,

I am a 35 year resident and small business owner in OTR. I am currently an OTRCC Trustee, but am writing only my own thoughts below in support of the Liberty & Elm development.

- Small businesses in OTR are struggling as evidenced by many permanent closures, vacant storefronts, and restaurants opening only Thursday through Sunday. The Liberty & Elm development promises 400-450 new residential customers within easy walking distance of Findlay Market and many other OTR businesses. The timely approval and groundbreaking of this high quality mixed use development along with the completion of Willkommen, the FC Stadium and 12th and Sycamore will go a long way in promising hope to prospective and currently struggling OTR business owners. These small businesses provide many of the jobs that local residents depend on and represent a lot of the unique character of OTR.
- The streetcar from my own observation, even being free of charge, is running almost empty. The promise to taxpayers to justify the streetcar investment was to encourage high density development along the line that would build Cincinnati's economy and tax base for future generations. The Cincinnati Streetcar currently is mass transient without the "mass", trying to operate in an underpopulated urban setting. Liberty & Elm residents would be logical streetcar users, since many would work and socialize downtown, making routine streetcar ridership practical.
- As an OTRCC trustee, I have witnessed this developer on multiple occasions respectfully engage the OTRCC. In the initial meeting with the OTRCC Economic Development Committee in February 2020, the developer assembled a development team of 7 professionals to address the committee and answer many questions we had. I have never seen this level of engagement from any developer while serving in the OTRCC. In addition the developer being an OTR resident has joined the OTRCC and has just opened a new headquarters in OTR, both of which demonstrate to me a serious commitment to our neighborhood. I think it is noteworthy to mention that the OTRCC, which came out against this project with a 42 against to 30 in favor vote has shown continued bias against numerous market rate developments, including the FC Stadium and 12th and Sycamore.
- The current brokenness of the Liberty and Elm site located at the entrance to the Findlay Market District, negatively effects the quality of life of OTR residents and leaves visitors with a negative image of OTR. Soon 25,000 soccer fans, 20 times a year will make their way to and from Findlay Market and the breweries north of Liberty before and after the game. I feel strongly city leaders should stive to expedite approval of this project replacing this vacant eyesore with a vibrant development capable of attracting new residents to the city and supporting existing and new small businesses.

I sincerely hope that City Council members expedite approval of the Liberty and Elm development, allowing the economy of OTR and in a larger sense the City of Cincinnati to move forward.

Thanks for your consideration and service,

John Walter