

September 8, 2020

#### **Board of Directors**

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## **Elder Council**

Elder Ahmed Azzahir Elder Pam James Elder JoeAnn Rembert Elder Semerit Seankh-Ka Elder Setchem Thesmaat To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to submit a letter of support for Abbott Northwestern Hospital's campus development project. This campus development project includes the construction of a new Central Utility Plant, to be located at the corner of Chicago Avenue and 26<sup>th</sup> Street, and a new Transportation Hub to be located just south of 28<sup>th</sup> Street on Chicago Avenue. These foundational infrastructure upgrades will allow Abbott Northwestern to make space for re-imagined patient care facilities while still maintaining their commitment to the neighborhood to remain in their current geographic footprint.

Abbott Northwestern has been an important part of this community for more than 50 years. As one of Minneapolis' largest employers, Abbott Northwestern has provided stable, good-paying jobs and opportunities for many members of our community for many years. The hospital's commitment to community can be seen in their long history of supporting local non-profits with charitable contribution dollars. The Cultural Wellness Center, through Community Benefit and Engagement has been a benefactor for 10 plus years. The Backyard Initiative, a 10-year commitment was made, in response to the community needs assessment of 25,000 residents within a 7-block radius surrounding Abbott Northwestern. The overall health and wellness of 6,000 plus residents were improved. At the end of the 10-year commitment, the Backyard Community Health Hub was launched, as we enter into the second year of financial support, an additional unduplicated 5,014 residents to date have been impacted.

Allina Health and Abbot Northwestern's commitment and partnership with the Cultural Wellness Center has not been limited to financial or charitable support, they share educational resources and material, their expertise through staff and interns who volunteer to enhance our community efforts. The Cultural Wellness Center has leveraged this very valued relationship to access other relationships and resources.

Allina Health and Abbott Northwestern is an important and intricate part of our community, community partners who are always at the table, engaged in and needed in the conversations about social determinants of health. It is vital having them at the table especially during this time, COVID-19 and the civil unrest that adversely affected our area, engaged in conversations about how to make improvements to the areas around Lake Street and Chicago Avenue.

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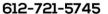
## **Elder Council**

Elder Ahmed Azzahir Elder Pam James Elder JoeAnn Rembert Elder Semerit Seankh-Ka Elder Setchem Thesmaat Abbott Northwestern has made south Minneapolis their home for many years and they want to further invest in this community. In order to make the improvements to their hospital campus to provide high-quality care into the future, they first need to improve these essential components of their physical infrastructure. Their representatives have explained their needs, the plans and the reasoning for their decisions, and we support their desire to further improve the hospital by constructing a new Central Utility Plant and creating a new campus Transportation Hub. The completion of this project will allow them to care for patients, families, and communities for another 50 years.

Sincerely,

# Roberta Banes

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