

Diversity Council

February 28, 2022

Re: Support for Rochester's Local Option Sales Tax Renewal

To whom it may concern:

Diversity Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the realization of civic, health, and educational equity. We are based in Rochester MN and support equity initiatives focused on Olmsted County and SEMN. I write today to express our full support for Rochester's Local Option Sales Tax renewal. The City of Rochester has a long tradition of serving as a significant regional center in Greater Minnesota and has effectively utilized local option sales tax to meet important community, regional, and state needs. Rochester is also home to Minnesota's largest employer, approximately 30,000 people commuting from outside the city each day, and over three million visitors each year from all 50 states and 130 counties.

The four projects the City has identified for local option sales tax funds would be of regional significance and would economically benefit residents and businesses in the entire region and state. Most importantly, the projected projects will include input from vital population groups.

In particular, the investment in Housing Vitality aligns with regional work to improve the housing inventory and access to safe and affordable housing for all residents. Focus on water quality and flood mitigation is similarly a point of regional focus and one that addresses issues of inequity and quality of life.

Diversity Council fully supports and endorses the renewal of the Local Option Sales Tax in Rochester. Please give the highest consideration to Rochester's request. I am available for additional input via email at DeeS@diversitycouncil.org.

Sincerely,



Dee Sabol, Executive Director
Diversity Council