



Helping Youth Find
Their GREATness

February 19, 2024
Detroit City Council
2 Woodward Ave., #1340
Detroit, Michigan 48226

RE: Future of Health Development

To The Honorable Body of City Council:

I write this letter of support for the proposed project involving Henry Ford Health Systems, the Detroit Pistons and Michigan State University. This is a great opportunity for my hometown, where I was born and raised, to add high quality healthcare and research facilities to a community that deserves the best health care in the world.

During my 28 years in the fire service, I had the opportunity to see how high quality healthcare was rendered in the surrounding suburbs and Detroit deserves nothing short of the best. This proposed investment will help Detroit to continue to propel itself into the realm of being recognized nationally as a "World Class City" with world class services and amenities. Prior to my 93-year-old father's passing in September, my aging parents had to leave the city to receive some of the highly sought after top-tier services rendered at Henry Ford Hospital in West Bloomfield. This is something that should never be necessary.

This project adds critical investment beyond the Downtown/Corktown area. It increases safety for the community and expands available units of affordable housing, creates jobs and will continue to spawn new life to the New Center area. Most of the proposed development will take place on vacant property that currently produces little to no taxable income to the City of Detroit.

What many Detroiters haven't seen is that Tom Gores and the Pistons have been very supportive of non-profit programs like Detroit PAL (personally and through the Pistons Foundation). Since moving back to the City of Detroit in 2017, they have been very intentional about supporting this community and helping to provide access and opportunity to Detroit youth. I have had the privilege of being able to work with the Pistons through Detroit PAL as well as with former Mayor and Piston Hall of Famer, Dave Bing during my time as a youth mentor for Bing Youth Institute. As they continue to build a winning product on the court, I am confident that the Pistons will continue to build and invest right here in the heart of the Detroit community.

While sports have always been at the core of my existence and at the root of my success, I know what great partners like Tom Gores and the Detroit Pistons mean to our community especially those within the Detroit PAL Families. Please consider a "yes" vote on this project as it addresses jobs, healthcare, housing and education for Detroiters.

Sincerely,

David Greenwood – Director of Community Engagement