

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



March 7, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

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

Dear Mayor Norton, Council President Carlson, and Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing, we write to express support for the proposed housing vitality fund proposed as part of the local options sales tax renewal. The Coalition for Rochester Area Housing is a local public-private partnership working to create and preserve affordable and workforce housing in the region.

The Coalition for Rochester Area Housing completed a housing needs assessment in 2020 which identified the area's most pressing housing needs. We learned that another 6,267 homes are projected to be needed by year 2030. At our current production rates we are projected to produce 68% of that market demand. Ultimately, the assessment indicated our top five housing needs as:

- 1) Create new homeownership opportunities
- 2) Increase homeownership for People of Color
- 3) Increase housing options for those earning less than 50% AMI
- 4) Preserve existing affordable homeownership and rental housing
- 5) Create additional Senior Housing Options

The partners in the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing have recently reinvested in a housing blueprint to meet these needs. The proposed Housing Vitality fund aligns with the top five housing needs in our community and can help accelerate this important work. For these reasons, the Coalition for Rochester Area Housing supports the Housing Vitality fund proposed as part of the local options sales tax. Feel free to contact either of us; contact information is included below.

Sincerely,

Dave Dunn
Interim Co-Executive Director
Coalition for Rochester Area Housing

Olmsted County HRA
dunn.dave@co.olmsted.mn.us

Jennifer Woodford
Interim Co-Executive Director
Coalition for Rochester Area Housing

Rochester Area Foundation
jennifer@rochesterarea.org



March 13th, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th St SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Dear City Leaders,

The Rochester Sports Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting investment into sports and recreation facilities in the Rochester area. Our sports advisors work not just to attract investment but to ensure its success in our community.

We have observed and studied other cities and their aggressive investment in high quality sports complexes with extremely successful results. With proper planning and management - this facility will add community value and recreation options that all citizens of the area will enjoy.

Our organization unanimously supports the use of the local option sales tax to plan and invest in a much-needed sports, recreation and community complex.

This facility will also benefit the opportunities for Rochester in the sports tourism market. Rochester has always been among the regional leaders in attracting sports visitors to the area. Sports tourism is now a \$46B industry and growing with \$25M annually spent in Rochester. Many other cities and communities throughout the Midwest are aggressively expanding complexes and hosting the sports tourism visitors. A facility of this nature will benefit the community in many ways and is a very worthwhile investment.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Ed Hruska - Director
Rochester Sports Foundation

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www.rochsportsfoundation.org



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March 21, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Dear City Leadership,

The Aspen Suites and Aspen Select Hotels would like to show their support for the use of the local option sales tax to plan and invest in a much-needed sports, recreation and community complex.

The hotels will benefit either directly or indirectly from any tournaments, activities and or events that it will draw to our city. We need to stay competitive in these markets given all the hotels that Rochester has built up over the years – we need a facility like this to keep up occupancies. Without this facility – we will not be able to get new events and/or keep the events that we have literally started here. Many other cities in the area are looking to build centers like this – we need to beat them to the punch.

The facility is also a perfect complement to our existing Medical market in Rochester. Where hotels are busy during the week – there are many weekends that need to be filled; the center will help to fill the gaps to round out our occupancies.

Thank you for your time – and hopefully for your commitment to keep our city competitive.

Sincerely:

Laurel A. Schacht, General Manager



March 22, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Re: City of Rochester Local Option Sales Tax Renewal

Minnesota Legislators,

As a downtown Rochester business owner, I write to you, to express our support for the City of Rochester's local option sales tax renewal. This tax renewal would help support a sports and recreational community facility. Not only would this facility provide space for the local community, but also benefit the tourism market. Bringing people to town benefits Rochester businesses. Adding tournaments and sporting activities, brings people to Rochester who need hotels, restaurants and outside activities. It would add dollars to our economy! It would be a "win-win" for all involved!

The Tap House on Historic Third and The Tap House West End, support the City of Rochester's local option sales tax renewal.

Kind Regards,

Christine Stahl
Owner
The Tap House on Historic Third
507-258-4017
The Tap House West End
507-361-3250

Downtown

10 Historic Third Street Southwest
Rochester, MN 55902 | Phone: 507.258.4017
taphousemn.com

West End

2365 Commerce Drive Northwest
Rochester, MN 55901 | Phone: 507.361.3250
taphousemn.com

2905 South Broadway
Rochester, MN 55904-5515
Phone: 507.288.3923
Email: rochester@whks.com
Website: www.whks.com



March 7, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

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

Dear Mayor Norton, Council President Carlson, and Councilmembers -

On behalf of WHKS & Co., we are writing to express our support of Rochester's Local Option Sales Tax renewal. The City of Rochester is a significant regional economic and population center in Southeast Minnesota and has effectively utilized local option sales tax to meet important community, regional, and state needs. Rochester is home to Minnesota's largest employer, with approximately 30,000 people commuting from outside the city each day, and over three million visitors annually from all 50 states and 130 counties.

The four projects identified by the City for local option sales tax funds are of regional and local significance and economically benefit residents and businesses. WHKS has been part of the Rochester landscape since 1967, providing planning, civil engineering, and surveying services. Our vision, "to help clients shape their horizons" directly benefits the City and community by our ongoing commitment to improving and maintaining Rochester's infrastructure.

The Rochester Local Option Sales tax renewal will support an improved transportation network which will provide the necessary capacity for travel to and within the City. WHKS has a long history of improving Minnesota waterways, including water quality projects on Silver Lake and improvements to Silver Lake Park. These improvements contribute to the local economy and provide recreational and wellness amenities for visitors and residents alike.

WHKS & Co. fully backs the renewal of the Local Option Sales Tax in Rochester. Feel free to contact me at 5070.288.3923 or by email at thruska@whks.com.

Sincerely,

WHKS & co.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Timothy A. Hruska'.

Timothy A. Hruska, P.E., L.S.
Vice President and Rochester Office Manager



601 2nd Street SW
Rochester, MN 55902

To: Minnesota State Legislature City Taxation Committee

Let's talk about Rochester, Minnesota! We are proud to be the fastest growing city in Minnesota and one of the three largest cities in our beautiful State of Minnesota. And, as an area known to support health and innovation, we are very mindful of the amazing contribution that Minnesota's largest employer, Mayo Clinic Healthcare Systems, makes to create a welcoming environment for \$1.4 million patients each year right here in Rochester. Now, it seems like a perfect time to keep our growth going in order to support robust development in our community.

We are amazed that the Rochester Sports Organization and the Rochester Sports Foundation can have such an incredible impact on our economy. With over 120 plus sports events every year, they have allowed us to lead major cities, especially in the Midwest, to host really big events, like the U.S. Trampoline and Tumbling Competition which attracted over 5,000 persons to our city in June 2021. In this time of economic recovery, as an organization, the North Rock Hospitality Group has three hotels in Rochester that we oversee and we rely on visitors and guests to fill our hotels year round. We feel this is possible only with state-of-the-art sporting facilities and this will require future investments to keep our community in the running for these major events. We ask for your help in authorizing our City of Rochester Sales Tax Extension. That will ensure today's \$25 million dollar impact annually will grow to \$50 million in the years to come.

We look forward to our future success together. And, we are here to help in any way we can to keep Rochester Sports at its best in leading the way in sports development in Southern Minnesota. Please join us in approving this request!

With warm regards,


Andy Thilges,

Area Director of Sales

North Rock Hospitality Group

601 2nd Street SW

Rochester, MN 55902

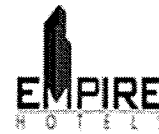
Phone: 507-696-8820

Email: andy.thilges@nrhotels.com

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3.25.2022

City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Dear Minnesota legislators:

On behalf of Empire Hotels, I write to encourage you to support the City of Rochester's renewal proposal to utilize local option sales tax to meet our community needs.

We own and manage 11 hotels in Rochester and many more throughout the State of Minnesota. We see our sports and recreation facilities falling behind other markets we operate in and feel the need for improvement in Rochester. In order to compete with other regions to keep sports tourism in our state and attract cities from border states to come to Rochester there must be an improvement in our facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt McCollom".

Matt McCollom

Empire Hotels

507.261.3457

Matt.mccollom@empirehotelsgroup.com





March 1, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

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

Dear Mayor Norton, Council President Carlson, and Councilmembers,

On behalf of WSB & Associates, Inc. ("WSB") I write to express support for Rochester's Local Option Sales Tax renewal. WSB is a design and consulting firm specializing in engineering, community planning, environmental, and construction services. We are based in Minnesota and have staff and an office located in Rochester.

WSB supports the Rochester Local Option Sales tax renewal because the projects identified by the City support Rochester's infrastructure. Stable infrastructure is vital to a successful community. A working infrastructure system supports economic development, keeps communities safe and secure, and enhances the public's general welfare.

Given the impact these funds have on positively impacting the infrastructure of Rochester, we support the renewal of the Local Option Sales Tax in Rochester.

Please feel free to reach out to me at 507.218.3749 with any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Petree".

Chris Petree
Director of Operations



March 18, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th St SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Dear City Leaders and State Legislators,

Hamilton Real Estate Group has a 43-year history of involvement in the growth and development of the City of Rochester and the surrounding areas of Southeast Minnesota. Our members and principals have prioritized the region's position within the State and focused on how we can best leverage the advantages we have to continue evolving as the premier medical destination in the country and solidify our place as the center for healthcare in the State of Minnesota.

We would like to express our support for the City of Rochester's proposal to renew the Local Option Sales Tax to continue funding community recreational development in our area. With these funds the city can plan and invest in sports complexes and recreational facilities in Rochester. These types of investments have been shown to have impactful results in other cities, not only resulting in increased tourism and exponential economic benefits, but also enhancing quality of life for residents.

Rochester will continue to be a central part of the economy of our state, welcoming visitors and new residents from all over the world. It is imperative that we maintain focus on the goals and requirements necessary to succeed in the years to come. The renewal of The City of Rochester Local Option Sales Tax will support our ability to serve the region now and in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

 *Chad Behnken*

Chad Behnken, CCIM
Vice-President, Hamilton Real Estate Group



Real People. Real Solutions.

2900 43rd Street NW
Suite 100
Rochester, MN 55901

Ph: (507) 208-4332
Bolton-Menk.com

March 3, 2022

City of Rochester
201 4th Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904

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

Dear Mayor Norton, Council President Carlson, and Councilmembers,

On behalf of Bolton & Menk, Inc., I write 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.

Bolton & Menk specializes in providing public infrastructure solutions. We take care of our clients by providing quality services and the right solutions for their needs. With 24 locations throughout the Upper Midwest and the Southeast United States, including an office right here in Rochester, we're local. Our team is made up of nearly 700 employees including a professional staff of 175 engineers, planners, landscape architects, and surveyors, with over 20 of those employees located right here in Rochester.

We support the Rochester Local Option Sales tax renewal because it will support the infrastructure, recreation, and housing needs of a growing community. Our business and our employees rely on the City of Rochester being a strong community not only because our business is located here, and because many of our employees live here, but also because Rochester is an important regional center that our clients and employees located elsewhere in Minnesota rely on.

The specific projects identified are important because Rochester experiences a large volume of visitors that use the local street system for economic activity. The flood control system represents a significant investment that requires continual maintenance and improvement to protect the core of the city. A regional community and recreation complex will improve recreation opportunities for our employees and clients and provide overall economic benefit to the region. Lastly, the need for affordable housing and the Housing Vitality project would improve affordable housing availability in Rochester which is extremely important to support the needs of a growing workforce in the region.

Name: Rochester Local Option Sales Tax Support

Date: March 3, 2022

Page: 2

Again, Bolton & Menk, Inc. fully backs the renewal of the Local Option Sales Tax in Rochester. Feel free to contact me at 507-381-7511, or brian.malm@bolton-menk.com.

Sincerely,

Bolton & Menk, Inc.



Brian P. Malm, P.E.

Principal Engineer

Rochester Civil Work Group Leader

Meilander Properties LLC
Tom Meilander, Edina Realty

1703 8 ½ Ave SE
Rochester, MN 55904

03/10/2022

Recipient

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

Dear Recipient:

On behalf of Myself, our family and our family business, Tom Meilander Realtor Edina Realty, and Meilander Properties, LLC, we write 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, approxima

Tom Meilander, Realtor, and **Meilander Properties LLC**, specializing in real estate rental properties, land development, commercial real estate, and residential sales, are fully committed to Rochester as an international hub for growth in both medical and regional businesses. As a destination center, it is imperative we offer cutting edge opportunities and features in our community to compete on the world stage. Tom Meilander and Meilander Properties, supports the Rochester Local Option Sales tax renewal because we are involved with housing and neighborhoods that require not only affordability, but being attractive to our community at large. This means safe neighborhoods, green space for nature and recreation and so much more. It means sensible traffic control, public buildings that are attractive and functional from City Hall to Public Libraries. Skyway systems and underground walk ways to keep our weather comfortable for all, when we all know Minnesota's greatest asset is not our weather but our people. In the end, the local tax is used to benefit us....the people. It is the ultimate reason to support the Local Option Sales Tax. This is our city and our legacy to continue Rochester's great journey towards a great future for all generations to come.

Again, Tom Meilander, Realtor and Meilander Properties, fully backs the renewal of the Local Option Sales Tax in Rochester. Feel free to contact me at Tom Meilander, meilander@aol.com or my office 507-254-2259.

Sincerely,



Tom Meilander, Realtor, Edina Realty