

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## MINNESOTA

March 25, 2025

Dear Chair Latz, Co-Chair Novotny and Co-Chair Moller,

I am writing to tell you about our important partnership with the Salvation Army Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) and about the importance of their proposed logistical warehouse facility in Roseville to the readiness of the region.

As you are certainly aware, the frequency and disruption of disasters is increasing across the US, and Minnesota is no exception. Disaster response and recovery is centered locally and engages all parts of the community; from government, to private industry, to non-profits and voluntary organizations such as the Salvation Army. A recent executive order from the White House (Achieving Efficiency Through State and Local Preparedness, 3-18-25) calls for sound state and local investments to address disaster risks. Investment in building the regional disaster response capability of a time-tested and effective voluntary organizational partner such as the Salvation Army seems to be the very model of efficiency.

As the federal government reassesses its disaster role, it has also urged state and local officials to increase their investments and partnerships with other organizations to increase local capability. The Salvation Army has long been a partner of emergency management. They play a particular key role in mass care of disaster victims and responders alike, usually taking the lead role in essential feeding operations in heavily disrupted disaster zones. Their efforts are critical.

We have seen the impact of supply chain failure in disaster. There are incidents where a local, stocked warehouse is the only resource that has critical supplies on-hand ready for response. They providing space for safe storage and rapid distribution of food, water, blankets, first aid, and other life-saving supplies. Additionally, the proposed facility includes an industrial scale kitchen, which is essential in provide hot meals to first responders and survivors during any emergency. The ability to prepare and distribute thousands of meals on-site will ensure that those working tirelessly to assist others, as well as the affected individuals themselves, receive proper nutrition. Nothing currently in the State of Minnesota offers the immediate access to material and supplies at the scale to be offered by the new Salvation Army warehouse proposal.

I urge you to carefully consider this proposal and to weigh its importance in providing effective disaster response for Minnesotans.

Eric Waage, Director



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