

April 2, 2024

**To: City of New Haven Board of Alders**

**Re: Transit Oriented Community Zone**

To the Honorable Board of Alders:

I am pleased and excited to offer my support for the Text and Map Amendments to the New Haven Zoning Ordinance to establish a Transit Oriented Community Zone for the revitalization of the greater New Haven Union Station area (the “Union Station Parcel”).

This TOC, when fully realized, will increase New Haven’s vitality and livability, provide significant new employment and commercial opportunities, and provide overall economic and fiscal benefits to the City. Additionally, this TOC will complement and support the Hill-to-Downtown Community Plan, approved by the Board of Alders in December 2018, to expand and enhance the walkability and opportunity for mixed-use transit-oriented development. It will provide new development opportunities, and is integral to the future development of the Union Station Parcel and its surrounding communities.

As someone who works with commercial real estate developers by day, I can confidently state that this new Transit Oriented Community Zone puts in place the framework needed for the type of development that would otherwise be difficult to bring to this region. As a member of the Economic Development Commission, this amendment is very much in line with the work of the Commission. As a resident of New Haven, this TOC is a key step towards giving this city the transportation gateway that it deserves.

I believe this project will facilitate economic growth, produce less vehicular traffic, and reduce impact on roads and highways. I wholeheartedly offer my support for this project and hope the Board of Alders will vote to approve the TOC petitions.

Thank you!

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