



Human Development Center
Comprehensive Behavioral Healthcare

Professional. Compassionate. Dedicated.

June 6, 2016

Duluth City Council
City Hall
411 West First Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Subject: Garfield Square Apartments

Dear Councilors:

Human Development Center (HDC) supports the Center City Housing project to build the Garfield Square apartments.

HDC is the community mental health agency in Duluth, providing mental health services to more than 7,500 clients annually in the Duluth area. One of the more important services that a community mental health center provides is supportive housing services. HDC is uniquely qualified to provide supports to people who are chronically homeless and suffer from mental illness. HDC provides outreach and intensive case management services to this population to address their mental health needs and to support their seeking and maintaining housing. In order to improve their quality of life and reduce the economic cost to society, a safe place to live is fundamental.

Center City Housing has a strong track record of developing and operating housing with onsite supports for this segment of HDC's client base. Under the leadership of Rick Klun and Nancy Cashman, HDC's support has been brought onsite at Alicia's Place, San Marco, Memorial Park, Endion, and with CHUM, at Steve O'Neil Apartments. These services are of a preventative nature, resulting in lower levels of intervention by law enforcement or medical teams. With the opening of the Garfield Square project, and the accompanying rehab of the Esmond, those most in need in our community will have an opportunity to be housed in an environment that will improve their lives, while reducing the demand on other public services. I strongly endorse this project.

Sincerely,

James Getchell
Executive Director

HDC's mission is to lead our communities by providing integrated, culturally respectful mental health and addiction services that foster hope, self-determination, and recovery. Our focus on serving those most in need improves the quality of life for all.
www.humandevlopmentcenter.org

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