

WASHINGTON:
449 CANNON HOUSE
OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7032

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

DISTRICT OFFICE:
25200 CHAGRIN BOULEVARD
SUITE 200
BEACHWOOD, OH 44122
(216) 522-4900

March 31, 2023

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing
and Urban Development, and Related
Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member Quigley,

I am requesting funding for Innovation Square Phase 2: Affordable City of Cleveland Project in the fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is Fairfax Renaissance Development Corporation, located at 2300 E. 105th Street, Cleveland OH, 44106. The funding would be used to address the need for quality affordable housing in the Innovation Square footprint.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project is part of a transformational plan to improve a disinvested section of the Fairfax neighborhood into a mixed-income community offering quality housing options for all income levels and features a neighborhood green space, a new national grocery store (Fairfax Meijer Market) and a variety of housing choices includes single-family new home construction and apartment living. Phase 2 of the plan features an affordable housing project that transforms long unproductive vacant lots and prior vacant and abandoned housing into an affordable housing development. The 60-unit multifamily project is designed to be affordable to families between 30% - 80% of the area's median income. The project is located within walking distance of the soon-to-be-completed Meijer Grocery Store and Playwright Park, a greenspace completed in 2019. The project is also within walking distance of three different public transportation options including a light rail, local bus, and bus rapid transit. Innovation Square is located along Opportunity Corridor, a \$331 million transportation corridor designed to spur economic development activity in four low-income City of Cleveland African American communities.

The project site is also within walking distance of the State of Ohio's largest employer and home to its main campus, Cleveland Clinic. The proximity to employment opportunities and access to fresh quality foods helps to increase opportunities for low-income families to secure employment and family stability and also addresses the social determinants of health. Connecting this job center to the local neighborhood is a critical component of the project and the Innovation Square Plan. The project fulfills resident and stakeholder input by bringing new housing, commercial retail and office space, educational space, and new green spaces to the area. The project will also leverage adjacent investment to help weave together nodes of development for a more walkable, vibrant community. The new offerings meet the needs of the existing population while attracting

new residents and businesses to the area. The overall goal is to attract economic investment to the area, create living wage jobs, promote community building, help ensure the sustainability of the area, and provide equitable access to housing and services.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 42 U.S. Code 5305(a)(4).

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Shontel M. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Shontel" being more prominent and the last name "Brown" written in a smaller, more compact script.

Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress