

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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TONY KNOBBE, Chairman
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October 29, 2020

Mayor Mike Matson & Davenport City Council Members
Davenport City Hall
226 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801

RE: City of Davenport's proposed amendment to the North Urban Renewal Area Plan to allow the use of tax increment financing funds to reimburse the City's General Fund for economic development staffing costs.

Dear Mayor Matson and Council Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendment of the North Urban Renewal Area Plan by the City of Davenport. The Board has consistently opposed the use of TIF funds for municipal general fund staffing costs.

The Board supports the use of tax increment financing for economic development projects which both increase the tax base and create new jobs. The Board also supports the use of TIF for urban renewal projects that reverse blight and declining property values but then only if it is to offset the extraordinary cost of such redevelopment in urban renewal areas. The Board does not support the use of TIF as an economic development incentive that gives an unfair advantage to businesses that compete with existing local businesses or that only create secondary market, retail, or service sector jobs. The Board has consistently expressed objections and concerns with the use of TIF reimbursements to the City budget for staffing and other departmental costs.

The Scott County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to comment on this plan amendment and believes the use of TIF by the City of Davenport to reimburse its General Fund for staffing costs is inappropriate. We do appreciate and would like to continue a spirit of cooperation with the City of Davenport on economic development projects and we look forward to working with you in the future.

Respectfully,

Tony G. Knobbe
Chair, Scott County Board of Supervisors

xc: Corri Spiegel, Davenport City Administrator
Mahesh Sharma, Scott County Administrator