



March 9, 2023

Supporters of the Waite Park Community Outpost,

I am sending this letter asking for your support regarding the Waite Park Community Outpost. Although Waite Park has a large population of youth and senior citizens, we do not have a functional space large enough for them to gather. For this reason, I am asking for your support to build a community outpost facility in Waite Park. It would include a youth center, in cooperation with the Boys and Girls Club, as well as a space for our senior citizens to gather.

This facility would be a great asset for our ISD #742 students, something that is needed for our students to learn, and a safe place to study and hang out.

I feel that a mix of youth and seniors would be a great learning experience for both the youth and seniors of Waite Park.

Any support that you can give to this project would be very much appreciated.

Rick Miller
Mayor



March 7, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

I currently serve as Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation (GSCPSF), which is the leading advocate of public safety in Benton, Sherburne and Stearns counties in central Minnesota.

Established in 2015 as a 501c3 non-profit entity, we support fire, police, and emergency medical service providers in our region. The foundation is led by the private sector, with collaboration from public agencies, community leaders and volunteers.

Our initiatives include providing scholarships to those pursuing careers in public safety, supporting the wellbeing of first responders and their families, acting as a fiscal host for other advocates of public safety, and building the St. Cloud Rotary/Richard C. Wilson Community Outpost (aka COP House) in south St. Cloud.

The COP House was built in 2017 with a focus on community service and engagement. Rather than saturating a high crime area with officers reacting to incidents, this community policing project located a police department outpost in the heart of a troubled neighborhood. The outpost provides long-term stabilization to the neighborhood by building relationships with members of the community, providing needed services and youth activities, reducing crime, and empowering citizens to be personally engaged in their community. The COP House was built with cash and in-kind donations from individuals, businesses, foundations, associations, faith communities and community groups.

In addition to responding to public safety and crime events in the neighborhood, St. Cloud Police Department officers organize and carry out youth and adult enrichment activities for neighborhood residents, who include underrepresented people of color, as well as immigrants and refugees who are new to country. These activities include youth sports (basketball, soccer and hockey), homework help, book club, girls club, fishing club, sewing club, community garden, and more.

Partner occupants in the COP House include a community nurse through CentraCare, Stearns County Human Services and Mayo Clinic Ambulance Service. Free dental clinics and legal services are also provided.

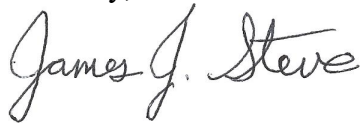
The success of our COP House project was recognized with the 2018 L. Anthony Sutin Civic Imagination Award from the US Department of Justice and most recently, with the 2021 Innovation Award by the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation.

Recognition aside, we receive the most satisfaction in knowing that our COP House project has improved the lives of our neighbors in that south St. Cloud community. A 2020 survey of neighborhood residents revealed that respondents found improvements in safety, health, education, crime deterrence. Improved community vitalization was cited by 98.3% of the participants.

We are thrilled that the City of Waite Park is considering locating a Community Outpost in their jurisdiction. We know first-hand that this kind of collaborative investment in a community yields exponential benefits to the quality of life of all residents.

We fully support the Waite Park Collaborative project. Because we know – and have partnered with – the entities leading this project, we are confident there is a high likelihood of success. If you have any questions related to the GSCPSF's support for this project, I welcome your call or email to (320) 980-7129 or jdsteve@midco.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James J. Steve". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

James J. Steve
Board Chairperson

Superintendent's Office

Dr. Laurie Putnam
Superintendent

District Administration Office
1201 South 2nd Street
Waite Park, MN 56387

P 320-370-8005
laurie.putnam@isd742.org

March 2023

RE: Letter of Support for the Waite Park Collaborative Project

To Whom It May Concern:

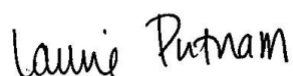
As the current Assistant Superintendent and incoming Superintendent of Saint Cloud Area Schools, it is a pleasure to write this letter of support for the Waite Park Collaborative Project between the City of Waite Park, The Waite Park Police Department, Greater St. Cloud Public Safety Foundation – Community Outpost, the Boys and Girls Club of Central Minnesota and the Waite Park Senior Citizen Community to provide a Community Center for youth, the elderly, and our Waite Park community.

This project will provide additional services to Saint Cloud Area Schools' students who live in the Waite Park area. The Waite Park community, based on census data (2020), has experienced a rapid demographic change in the last 10 years. There has been a sharp increase in overall population, the number of families in poverty, the number of students identifying as BIPOC, and the number of students under the age of 18. Our school district would welcome the assistance of this collaborative to improve students' and families' lives. Their focus on teaching and supporting Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship and Healthy Lifestyles outside of the school hours is critical for the long-term success of every student.

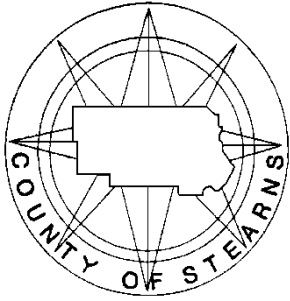
Saint Cloud Area Schools has a long-standing partnership with the Boys and Girls Club which has provided positive impacts in the following areas: increased graduation rates, school attendance data, volunteerism and physical activities; and lower rates of physical altercations, and drug and alcohol consumption. Many of our refuge and immigrant families, those experiencing homelessness, or those living in poverty have limited access to transportation or community resources available in the Waite Park area. These young people and families would greatly benefit from the access and opportunity this local Community Center will provide.

We are pleased with this cooperative partnership venture and know it will benefit the greater Waite Park community, and specifically, the well-being of youth in this community. This proposal has the fullest support of Saint Cloud Area Schools.

Sincerely,



Dr. Laurie Putnam
Superintendent



COUNTY OF STEARNS

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

PO Box 1107 • St. Cloud, MN 56302
320/656-6000 • TDD: 320/656-6204 • 1-800-450-3663
www.co.stearns.mn.us

March 9, 2023

To whom it may concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support for the application to fund the Waite Park Community Outpost Collaboration, the Boys & Girls Club, and the Senior Center. The Community Outpost and the Boys & Girls Clubs engage the community in public safety and provide services to neighborhood residents through partnership with area agencies.

As a community partner, Stearns County Human Services is aware of the critical need for activities such as after-school programming and health and wellness fairs in predominantly low to moderate-income neighborhoods. Top priorities have been to focus on overall wellness, education, and safety. Providers of these services are often looking for resources for the families they serve. It is imperative that funding for these services is provided to establish and maintain neighborhood stabilization.

Evidence has shown that senior centers serve as a gateway connecting older adults to vital services that help them to maintain their health and independence. By offering a variety of activities and services such as meal programs, social networking, and fitness centers, they have proven invaluable to the health and welfare of the community's aging population.

By merging activities for older and younger people, it is anticipated that the Community Outpost will help to break down barriers, improve educational attainment, reduce crime, and provide a better sense of community spirit and well-being. Toward that end, the Waite Park Collaboration and the services that will be provided are an extremely valuable resource. Please accept this strong letter of support for their application.

Sincerely,

Melissa Huberty, MSW, LICSW
Administrator, Stearns County Human Services