



TO: Senator Bobby Joe Champion, Chair, Jobs & Economic Development
Senator Jen McEwen, Chair, Labor & Industry
Senator Zaynab Mohamed, Vice Chair, Jobs & Economic Development
Senator Grant Hauschild, Vice Chair, Labor & Industry
Senator Heather Gustafson, Vice Chair, Education & Finance
Representative Hodan Hassan, Chair, Economic Development
Representative Jay Xiong, Chair, Workforce Development Finance & Policy
Representative Mike Nelson, Chair, Labor & Industry
Representative Kaela Berg, Chair, Labor and Industry Finance and Policy
Representative Liz Olson, Chair, Ways & Means

FROM: The Lake Street Council

DATE: 5/2/23

RE: HF 3028 and SF 3035

Dear Members of the Omnibus Jobs and Labor Conference Committee,

Thank you for bringing much-needed economic development support to the Twin Cities through HF 3028 and SF 3035. We are grateful for these investments in economic and workforce development that will support residents and businesses throughout the Twin Cities - and especially on Lake Street.

Founded in 1967, the Lake Street Council drives economic development in South Minneapolis by supporting and empowering entrepreneurs who operate small businesses along the Lake Street corridor. As the largest and most diverse commercial corridor in South Minneapolis, Lake Street is a key source of economic activity for our vibrant communities, providing jobs, goods and services, and cultural activity.

Since 2020, the Lake Street Council has played a critical role in recovery efforts, including raising and distributing over \$11.5 million to over 500 businesses in direct business support grants, forgivable loans, and pre-development and acquisition support. In addition, we have also played an important role in uplifting and



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bringing customers back to the area with our robust marketing and placemaking efforts - funding over 30 new murals and public art activities.

We believe that the Empowering Enterprise Program and the PROMISE Act would allocate needed resources to entrepreneurs in our community.

Specifically, we believe the Empowering Enterprise Program will foster a stronger, more flexible approach to economic development by expanding the capacity of local community and business groups across each commercial corridor through direct funding allocations.

It would allow the Lake Street Council and other partner organizations to continue providing critical strategic assistance to individual businesses; securing physical area improvements; and supporting programming and community engagement initiatives that help draw visitors to our vibrant commercial corridor.

The Lake Street Council would use this funding allocation to replenish our We Love Lake Street grant program which has supported hundreds of small businesses over the last several years. For example, to date:

- Our We Love Lake Street program provided over 500 grants to local businesses and redevelopment projects.
- 84% of businesses receiving We Love Lake Street grant awards were BIPOC-owned businesses, and 7% were community-based nonprofit organizations.
- 74% of these businesses had annual revenue of less than \$500,000 per year.

We would like to suggest the following recommendations for the Empowering Enterprise Program, which we believe will make it an even more effective recovery tool:

- Consider increasing the \$500,000 funding cap, specifically for redevelopment projects, to several million dollars. This increase would match up with the current financing gaps we are tracking on rebuilding projects along our corridor. There are ten severely damaged properties along the Lake Street corridor alone that have a combined financing redevelopment gap of \$94 million.
- Provide direct funding for 38th St./George Floyd Square.

In addition, we believe the Senate proposal language is missing critical funds for real estate redevelopment projects in the form of forgivable loans and grants. For every successful applicant to the Minnesota Main Street Economic Revitalization Program Street program in the Lake Street area, there were two more applicants that were turned away. Key redevelopment sites across the Twin Cities would benefit from the kind of catalytic investments the State of Minnesota is able to provide.

We would also suggest that the Senate bill raise the revenue cap on business grants to provide an opportunity for mid-sized local businesses to apply for grants and not just the smallest of businesses.

More than 1500 businesses were impacted by the Civil Unrest that followed the murder of George Floyd, resulting in over \$500 million in damages - making it the second most expensive civil disturbance in U.S. history. Many organizations like the Lake Street Council responded immediately to this crisis to help businesses get back on their feet, but more support is still needed. We cannot let another construction and legislative session end without passing a catalytic corridor recovery legislation.

This year, the legislature has the opportunity to invest in critical real estate development projects that are being driven by local, primarily BIPOC entrepreneurs. This type of funding would provide critical community services, generate equitable wealth-building opportunities for BIPOC residents and entrepreneurs, and allow several businesses and organizations displaced by the unrest to finally return to Lake Street.

The historic budget surplus presents a unique opportunity to support this full recovery and make a generational impact on the future of Lake Street and other commercial corridors across the Twin Cities.

I urge you to support legislation that invests in small businesses, the Lake Street Council, and the Lake Street corridor.

Please let Russ Adams or myself know if you have any questions at 612-438-6338, asharkey@lakestreetcouncil.org, or russ@lakestreetcouncil.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Sharkey". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Allison Sharkey
Executive Director

March 27, 2023

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, Economic Development Finance, and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
597 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. No. 3028 and the “empowering enterprise program”

Dear Representative Hassan:

We, the 120 undersigned business owners, nonprofit leaders, and residents are writing to express our support for legislative funding that would bring critically needed investments to the Twin Cities and support the vibrancy of Minneapolis and St Paul’s economic and cultural business districts.

The civil unrest that unfolded following the murder of George Floyd has had a lasting effect and resulted in several hundreds of millions of dollars in damage across the Twin Cities. More than 1,500 businesses and nonprofits were fully or partially destroyed, many of them owned by immigrants, low-income entrepreneurs, and families who are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC).

Despite this profound loss, our communities have come together and worked tirelessly to rebuild, leveraging grants, forgivable loans, technical assistance, and other financial support made possible by private fundraising, corporate donations, and nonprofits. But much remains to be done, and we believe the State of Minnesota has a critical role to play.

The allocation of funding in H.F. No. 3028 and the “empowering enterprise program” would start to provide the necessary investments needed to implement local economic development programs and begin to make a significant intergenerational impact on historically diverse economic and cultural business districts, including Lake Street, West Broadway, Saint Paul’s Midway neighborhood.

In addition, we believe support of 38th Street and Chicago Avenue is still critically important and needs support from the State of Minnesota.

The funding provided by H.F. No. 3028 would support the Twin Cities’ continued recovery, supporting critical recovery tools like property acquisition, building preservation, strengthening business operations, business and safety improvements, area beautification, new development, and more.

As our communities continue to rebuild and recover from civil unrest, historic divestment, and institutional barriers, the funding from the State of Minnesota would make a powerful impact. We urge you and your colleagues to invest in our region’s economic growth and future success by passing this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



*Destination Northside
and Northside Economic
Opportunity Network*



Lake Street Council



*38th Street United coalition
with Sabathani Community
Center*



*Midway Chamber of
Commerce*

Chad Kulas, Midway Chamber of Commerce
Peter McLaughlin, Twin Cities LISC
Ann Kim, Vestalia Hospitality
Renay Dossman, Neighborhood Development Center
Walter Bonilla, Wells Fargo
Warren McLean, NEON
Mitra Jalali, City of Saint Paul - Ward 4

Laura Zabel, Springboard for the Arts
Ali Barbarawi, Chicago Lake Family Dental
Andrew Sybilrud, Bremer Bank
David Wellington, Wellington Management, Inc.
Ruhel Islam, Curry in a Hurry
Renee Spillum, Creative Enterprise Zone
Juan Linares, Cooperative Mercado Central Inc.

See reverse side for full list of signatures



Anna Wienke, We...Artist Collective, Studios, and Gallery
Miluska Novota, Hortensia PLLC
Josey Perez, Premier Health of South Minneapolis
Justin Kirkeberg, Candid theater co
Kendal Bergman, Resident
Stacey Peacock, Stacey Peacock Consulting
Jeff and Gita Zeitler, Urban Forage Winery and Cider House
Daniel Goldschmidt, Etude LLC
Sarah Goodspeed, Resident
Barbara Jeanetta, Resident
Karen Karen Lopez, Novedades Krystal
Aaron Keith, Green Buidlers
Wendy Knox, Frank Theatre
Olivia Rodriguez, Zo Audio
Kalan Knudson Davis, Dragon Papers Ink
Ben Jacobson, Benj Jacobson
Bree Sieplinga, Upstream Arts
Doug Mork, Building Dignity & Respect Standards Council
Andrea Kuenning, Resident
Dianne Carlson, Resident
Seth Prince, PrinceWorks, LLC
Morgan Luzier, Balance Fitness Studio
Renato Zagal, Renatos Restaurant Inc.
Victoria Gonzalez, Manny's Tortas Llc
Jeanette Vyhanek, Resident
Amanda Madison, Bancroft Neighborhood Association
Alice Reynolds, Over Under
Leeann Sit, Resident
Ryan Mulso, Joyce Preschool
Brenna Everson, Brenna Everson Consulting LLC
Timothy Jordan, North Star Mini Storage
Nat Bennett, Resident
Brad Turner, PPNA
Jesus Escobar, Print & Buy LLC
Veronica Murphy, Resident
Chris Cinque, Resident
Taylor Smrikarova, Redesign, Inc.
Don Blyly, Uncle Hugo's Science Fiction Bookstore
Pinkey Patel, Elite Cleaners
Alembirhan Mezgebu
Dominic Nzara, Dominci's Tax Service
Karen Karen Lopez, Novedades Krystal
James Garrett Jr., FAIA, NOMA, 4RM+ULA
Linda McHale, Corner Store Vintage
Emily Allgeyer, Resident
Victoria Yopez, VY Management LLC
Cody Oesterreich, Resident
Jay Patel, International Management LLC
Steven Budas, Resident
Isadora Korak, Resident
Andrew Sybilrud, Bremer Bank
Daniel Swenson-Klatt, Butter Bakery Cafe GBC
Danii Lemaire, Resident
Juno Choi, Arbeiter Brewing Company
Katie Hosley, Resident
William Weber, William Weber Consulting LLC

Nicole Henry, Resident
Tom Lubanovic, Frostbeard Studio
Adeniyi Alabi, ADENAL Investment LLC
Anisa Esse, Blue Horn Properties & Essential Health Services
Conrad Leifur, Sooki and Mimi
Emily O'Brien, Sooki & Mimi
Rev. Ingrid Rasmussen, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Jackie Knight, Ackerberg
Rachael Crew, Sooki & Mimi
Monika D'Onofrio, Sooki & Mimi
Julie Ingebretsen, Ingebretsen's Nordic Marketplace
Jessica Bergman, Resident
Becky Lemon, Sooki & Mimi
Daniel Springrose, Sooki & Mimi
Stephanie Bergholtz, Sooki & Mimi / Vestalia Hospitality
Timothy Conners, Rotary
Irene Kelly, Prisma, LLC
Ellen Archibald, Resident
Sarah Robinson, Resident
Rachel Bouchard, Flourish Pilates+Bodywork
Cara Carlson, Anam Cara Therapies, PLLC and Beechwood, Inc.
Julia Holtemeyer, Resident
Kali Pliego, Resident
Chris Jones, Resident
Zoe Martinez, Resident
Lamberto Vergara, Minnesota School of Barbering
Amanda Duerr, St. Paul Area Chamber
Marcy McHenry, Midpointe Event Center
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Adeyinka Badewa, eStoreMasters LLC dba United Developers
Larry Olson, Metroplains
Joan Phillips, Carondelet Event Center & Member of the Midway
Chamber of Commerce
Thomas Foss, Burning Brothers Brewing
Catherine Day, Storyslices LLC
May yer Thao, Hmong American Partnership
Lauren Callis, Curiosity Studio
Alexander Kado, Resident
Thomas Mollner, Mollner Properties
Devin Creurer, Arcadia Management
Kara Yorkhall, Fertile Ground Women's Health and Fertility Center
Doug Mork, Building Dignity and Respect Standards Council
Elizabeth Greenbaum, Articulture
Betty Edwards, Resident
Robin Major, Resident
Julia Eagles, Resident
Julia Dellick, Resident



March 27, 2023

Elite Cleaners & Launderers
3101 Minnehaha Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55406

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, Economic Development Finance, and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
597 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. No. 3028 and the "empowering enterprise program"

Dear Representative Hassan:

My name is Pinkey Patel and I am the owner of Elite Cleaners on Minnehaha Avenue right off Lake Street. We are the 3rd building from the 3rd Precinct police dept and we had suffered huge damages during the riots. Our building was totally burned from the inside and all my dry cleaning machinery was gone.

During this time we just had one support and that was Lake Street Council. They stood by us like a rock and helped us through those difficult times. We needed money to rebuild and they helped us with all the resources they had, without them we would not have rebuilt our business there again.

It was the funding from these non profits that helped us rebuild our business and also provided a sense of security and support, which was very important. Without these funds small businesses like ours would not have survived. We still need more help as we have not fully recovered and the process is ongoing. Supporting the involved organizations, gives small business like ours the opportunity to recover bit by bit. For this reason, it is imperative that the state legislature allocates funds to support small businesses.

Thank you to the Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee and to Rep Hodan Hassan for reading my testimony.

Pinkey Patel
Owner, Elite Cleaners & Launderers

Minnesota School of Barbering
3615 E. Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55406
Ph: 612-722-1996
www.minnesotaschoolofbarbering.org



March 27, 2023

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, Economic Development Finance, and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
597 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: H.F. No. 3028 and the “empowering enterprise program”

Dear Representative Hassan:

My name is Lamberto Vergara, and I am a business owner in the city of Minneapolis. I am writing today to express my request for Minnesota Legislature to spend a portion of its historic surplus on investing in the small business corridors damaged in civil unrest in 2020.

A bit of my background, I started my business journey over 12 years ago, in Minneapolis as a barber shop owner. I now own two barbershops (LV's Barber Shop), a barber supply store (Twin Cities Barber Supply) and a barber school (Minnesota School of Barbering). It has been a great experience having businesses in Minneapolis but also has come with a lot of hardships. As a small business owner during the pandemic it was a struggle to keep afloat but with the help of the community and state programs I was able to do so.

I have joined with many organizations to be able to move ahead with my dreams of being a business owner and I have contributed my time and donations to organizations such as; Lake Street Council, Latino Economic and Development Center, and Longfellow Business Association. These organizations are essential part of the success story of many small businesses. Without their support many of the Lake Street businesses would have vanished during the pandemic and the George Floyd civil unrest that took place in Minneapolis in 2020.

Businesses like mine are a staple to the community and they are what makes Lake Street so full of culture and diversity. I want to express my desire for the community to continue to flourish but in order to do so we need the support of our city officials, representatives, senators, mayors, and governor to fund the needs of the small businesses. The buildings in which we do business in Minneapolis are run down and have taking hits during the civil unrest. We need the funds to renovate and rebuild to attract more customers. Our businesses not only bring jobs to hundreds of people in the area but also service many of the customers in the community. We need the support of legislators to invest in small businesses to help replenish funding programs like the Acquisition & Predevelopment Fund, while also boosting many other initiatives for Lake Street's recovery.

I want to thank you for taking the time in reading my letter. I hope that my small impact can help encourage financial commitment from legislatives to support small businesses. This would serve as a significant way to begin the healing process of past systemic neglect by providing easier access to resources and stimulating long-term economic development.

May 1, 2023

El Rey Audio
515 E Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, Economic Development Finance, and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
597 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 3035/HF 3028

Dear Representative Hassan:

My name is Olivia Rodriguez and I'm testifying in support of SF 3035/HF 3028.

The Lake Street community and the business owners need the support of the Lake Street Council to continue to grow and expand. To fulfill our dreams, we need the state's support for the Lake Street businesses. We know that this will not be possible if the Lake Street Council does not have the necessary funds. Your support will be the difference in my community. As a business owner, SF 3035/HF 3028 will create a relief in our hearts. I am a mother, I am an immigrant, I am a dreamer that wants to move forward with my community. I have been a business owner here in Minnesota for over 10 years and I love Lake Street.

I have been with the Lake Street Council for the past 3 years and they have supported me in becoming part of the south Minneapolis community by expanding and purchasing a beautiful commercial space along with business knowledge and technical assistance. During these three years after the pandemic, the Lake Street Council was there with attention, navigation and funds to keep us active as business people. The kindness and respect of the team has been constant since 2020. Since then, we have been constantly looted but they have been there for me and the diverse merchants on Lake St to support us. Lake Street Council have been on par with me and I know I can seek help with them at any time.

Thank you to the Finance and Economic Development Policy Committee and Representative Hodan Hassan for reading my testimony.

Olivia Rodriguez

ay 1, 2023

El Rey Audio

515 E Lake St, Minneapolis, MN 55408

The Honorable Hodan Hassan

Chair, Economic Development Finance, and Policy Committee

Minnesota House of Representatives

597 State Office Building

Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 3035/HF 3028

Dear Representative Hassan

Mi nombre es Olivia Rodriguez y testifico en apoyo de la Ley SF 3035/HF 3028

La comunidad y los dueños de negocio de la Lake St necesitamos el apoyo de Lake Street Council para seguir creciendo y expandiéndose. Para cumplir nuestros sueños, necesitamos el soporte del estado para los negocios de la Lake Street. Sabemos que esto no será posible si Lake Street Council no cuenta con los fondos necesarios. El apoyo de ustedes será la diferencia en mi comunidad. SF 3035/HF 3028, como negociante, es necesario ya que esto creará un alivio en nuestros corazones. Soy madre, soy inmigrante, soy soñadora que desea seguir adelante junto con mi comunidad. Soy negociante aquí en Minnesota desde hace más de 10 años y amo la Lake Street.

He estado con Lake Street Council los 3 últimos años y me han apoyado para formar parte de la comunidad del sur de Minneapolis con la expansión y la compra de un bello espacio comercial junto con conocimiento y asistencia técnica. Durante estos tres años después de la pandemia, Lake Street Council estuvo presente con atención, navegación y fondos para mantenernos activos como negociantes. La amabilidad y respeto del equipo ha estado constantemente desde el 2020 ya que desde entonces nos han saqueado constantemente y ellos estuvieron ahí para levantarnos nuevamente a mi y a la diversidad de comerciantes en la Lake St. LSC ha estado a la par conmigo y sé que puedo buscar ayuda con ellos en cualquier momento.

Gracias al comité de Finanzas y Políticas de Desarrollo Económico y a la Representante Hodan Hassan por leer mi testimonio.

Olivia Rodriguez

May 1, 2023

Floreria Yare LLC
417 E Lake St #81

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, Economic Development Finance, and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
597 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 3035/HF 3028

Dear Representative Hassan:

Mi nombre es Guillermina Figueroa Carrillo y testifico en apoyo de la Ley SF 3035/HF 3028

Tengo un negocio en Lake Street desde hace 14 años el cual me ha ayudado a sacar a mi familia adelante, pero lamentablemente mi negocio ha sufrido mucho después de lo sucedido en Mayo del 2020 y ha sido difícil salir adelante con los gastos que un negocio pequeño tiene, sería muy importante tener un apoyo para poder seguir funcionando y volver a tener presencia y éxito en la calle Lake porque ha sido difícil atraer clientes a nuestra área, necesitamos más apoyo financiero. Todos queremos que Lake St vuelva a ser la calle famosa y exitosa que era hace algunos años y espero que nos puedan brindar el apoyo para lograrlo junto con Lake Street Council ya que ellos nos han apoyado a nosotros y a otros negocios durante todo este tiempo y así queremos que continúe.

Gracias al comité de Finanzas y Políticas de Desarrollo Económico y a la Representante Hodan Hassan por leer mi testimonio.

Guillermina Figueroa Carrillo
Floreria Yare LLC

May 1, 2023

Joyeria Max
417 E Lake St Minneapolis MN 55408

The Honorable Hodan Hassan
Chair, Economic Development Finance, and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
597 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: SF 3035/HF 3028

Dear Representative Hassan:

Mi nombre es Maximo Figueroa dueno de Joyeria Max Limited y testifico en apoyo de la ley SF 3035/HF 3028

La ayuda y apoyo que he recibido de la organización Lake Street Council en momentos muy difíciles después de las protestas sucedidas en el 2020, donde mi negocio fue seriamente afectado, no solo recibí apoyo económico sino que también en gran parte me devolvió la esperanza de volver a reiniciar mi negocio quien a su vez hasta ahora sigue generando empleos y beneficios para contribuir con impuestos y desarrollo de y para nuestra comunidad en esta ciudad. Creo que esta ley de financiamiento puede ayudar a otros negocios que como el nuestro ha podido subsistir y mantenerse en esta comunidad.

Gracias al comité de Finanzas y Políticas de Desarrollo Económico y a la Representante Hodan Hassan por leer mi testimonio.

Maximo Figueroa