

AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY

March 22, 2023

Honorable Fue Lee
Minnesota House of Representatives
485 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: HF 1943; State Funding for a Cedar Riverside Recreation Center

Dear Representative Lee:

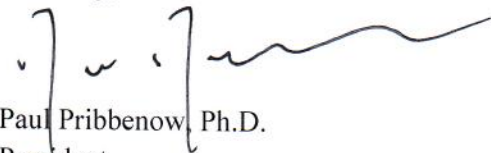
I am writing in support of an appropriation of \$20 million from bond proceeds for a grant to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for a new Cedar Riverside Recreation Center. This state funding is essential to bring expanded recreation facilities along with opportunities for more centralized social and support services to one of the most underserved and densely populated areas in the State of Minnesota. The current community center in the neighborhood, the Brian Coyle Center, lacks the space, facilities, and programming required to adequately address the needs of residents. The proposed new facility represents a transformative opportunity to construct a “next generation” community center serving the Cedar Riverside community, combining much needed recreational facilities and programming with support services for children, youth, and elders.

Augsburg University, as an anchor institution located in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, is committed to mobilizing institutional resources in ways that contribute to the health, safety, and vitality of the community of which we are a part. Toward that end, we have a long history of engagement with the Brian Coyle Center. This includes student internships and volunteers, course-based projects, and collaborative work on a variety of initiatives focused on addressing community needs. With the opening of the proposed new facility, Augsburg is committed to expanding our engagement with Pillsbury United Communities, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and other community partners to support programming at the center.

Augsburg University is a member of the Cedar Riverside Partnership, a public-private collaborative committed to the sustainable growth and development of the Cedar Riverside neighborhood. As chair of the Partnership, I have been impressed by the collective commitment of all members to support this project. The need for this facility in this neighborhood clearly resonates.

I urge you to support this important project. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul Pribbenow, Ph.D.
President



Office of the President

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