



December 19, 2019

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Walz,

The Brian Coyle Community Center in the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood of Minneapolis is building an immersive community, that is welcoming and diverse. This community center enriches the lives of residents — now, and for many generations to come. Being one of the busiest social service centers in Minneapolis, it provides essential community programming and both indoor and outdoor play areas for community members.

However, the building is over-capacity and in dire need of expansion and improvement. Brian Coyle being a beacon of community activities, each room is always in use during all hours of the day, which is preventing quality programming and access to services for community members.

With proposed high-density housing arriving in the near future, and as more residents move into the new apartments, pressure for additional space is mounting. Planning efforts aimed at the Brian Coyle Center suggest a building nearly twice the size of the existing building is needed in order to deliver quality programs, services, and activities to the neighborhood. In addition, the use of the current building is so significant that many aspects of the building are worn and while it continues to serve the community as best possible, its tired state fails to inspire the neighborhood's youth and families toward greater participation in well-considered programs and activities.

The state allocated a grant in fiscal year 2013-14 to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to predesign and design a renovation and expansion of the Community Center. This new building will have the space to host multiple simultaneous activities that bring together different generations, but it still needs funding to get across the finish line.

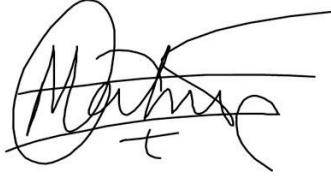
The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is more than halfway through its planning process. Engagement with the community and service partners have suggested both the interest in and potential for a wide range of additional services to the neighborhood. It would seem the neighborhood faces facility—not service—limitations. A reimagined Brian Coyle Center would be a significant step toward filling that gap.

In addition to enabling health, recreation, and fitness, the center serves as an anchor for many in our community. It supports a healthy environment, social and economic development, and strong communities.

For these reasons, we are writing to request that you include funding for the Brian Coyle Community Center in your upcoming bonding proposal, to ensure that Cedar-Riverside remains a place where everyone belongs and have the space they need to thrive. Our predesign work will be completed during the first half of 2020 and the neighborhood is anxious to continue its current efforts to create a building more wholly suited to the needs of Cedar-Riverside.

Thank you for your attention to this important project, and we look forward to working with you to make investments that will improve Minnesotans' lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mohamud Noor', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Rep. Mohamud Noor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kari Dziedzic', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Sen. Kari Dziedzic