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March 14th, 2023

The Honorable Sandra O'Brien

Ohio Senate, District 32

1 Capitol Square

Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: Support for proposed amendments to JEDD creation and structure in Senate Bill 75

Chair O'Brien:

On behalf of the Village of Lincoln Heights, its citizens and local business community, I write today in support of Senate Bill 75 as introduced by Senator Blessing to provide local jurisdictions with additional structural options in the creation and management of joint economic development districts (JEDD).

Located in Hamilton County along the Mill Creek Valley, the development of Lincoln Heights began in 1923 when the Haley-Livingston Land Company of Chicago sold lots of land to black families in an unincorporated area called the Cincinnati Industrial Subdivision. Lincoln Heights became the first African American self-governing community north of the Mason-Dixon Line, a heritage in which the Village takes immense pride. In 1939, residents of the area began efforts to incorporate so they could provide safety and necessary services for their growing community.

The overall goal and vision of the Village is to maintain a prosperous community for all residents. To that end, Lincoln Heights has worked diligently to engage with neighboring municipalities in the Cincinnati metro area as well as local, county and state administrative partners to initiate high-impact community

revitalization projects addressing decades-long gap of disinvestment. With the support of many local leaders and legislators, Lincoln Heights is putting in place transformational investments to improve our streets and gathering places and deliver a positive foundation for our next generation.

Following that thread, our Village leadership applauded Senator Blessing's sponsor testimony on SB75 before the Senate Local Government Committee and his recognition of recent efforts between Lincoln Heights, the Village of Evendale and Mayor Richard Finan to expand collaboration between our neighboring jurisdictions for long-term economic planning.

SB75 would allow for our two municipal corporations to enter into a JEDD contract and adopt legislation encouraging economic development, creating jobs, and improving the economic welfare of citizens in both communities. Lincoln Heights is optimistic on the prospect of participating in such an arrangement. Given the chance to work cooperatively with our neighbors in this way, our Village stands to gain an effective new tool enabling us to accelerate investments to the areas we strive to lift up the most and set policy fostering a mutually-beneficial agenda for economic development between Lincoln Heights and Evendale.

I thank the membership of the Senate Local Government Committee for their consideration on SB75, and would respectfully request their support for this legislation expanding the menu of economic development tools available to local governments in Ohio.

Thank you,


Ruby Kinsey-Mumphrey

Mayor, Village of Lincoln Heights