

Memo



TO: Olmsted County Commissioners

FROM: Mayor Kim Norton *Kim Norton*

DATE: December 12, 2024

SUBJECT: General Land Use Plan Text Amendment

I am writing to respectfully urge you to uphold the current General Land Use Plan policy requiring cities to approve amendments to the Urban Service Areas before an amendment application can proceed. This policy is critical to ensuring fiscal and environmental sustainability while safeguarding our shared interests.

The Olmsted County General Land Use Plan is grounded in principles that emphasize responsible growth, the production of diverse housing types, and environmental stewardship. It keeps in mind costs and tax implications for residents, as well. Through the recently completed Rochester Vision 2050 community feedback process, it is evident that these priorities remain top of mind for residents, both now and in the years to come. I will happily share more details about this in the coming year!

During my time in office, I have worked diligently to foster a strong partnership with Olmsted County. This collaboration has been essential in advancing our shared goals, and preserving it is crucial as we move toward the implementation of our collective vision. We need to look no further than the 911 Center / Riverbend agreement to see the powerful and positive impact this joint approach can make. I worry that your decision to remove the City's role in the Land Use policy jeopardizes this partnership and negatively impacts the great progress we have made together.

I strongly believe that more time is needed to address this issue collaboratively, rather than rushing into a decision that is not immediately necessary. By delaying or denying the proposed change, we can ensure that all parties have the opportunity to work through this matter thoughtfully and in alignment with our mutual goals.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request. I remain committed to working together with you, our County partners, to achieve a sustainable and prosperous future for our community.