

Oscar Vargas
Councilman - Ward 15

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COMMITTEES

Chairman, Public Works
Ordinances

April 10, 2023

RE: 25 BOUGH STREET DEVELOPMENT

To Whom it May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the 25 Bough Street Development project in the Olneyville business district in the City of Providence. This project will revitalize the area and continue the redevelopment of a blighted area that is adjacent to a busy traffic corridor in the city.

This development is multi-pronged and will serve as a center of direct access to health care services, education, financial services, business and culture. It offers something for everyone and will be a hub for the entire community with benefits for anyone who comes through the door especially BIPOC (Brown Indigenous People of Color) residents.

This project will offer space and services which can be the difference between a community member succeeding and moving forward or waiting everyday for something that may motivate them. This is true for elders as well as youth. It will truly be transformative for the community, residents and visitors alike.

With other projects being developed in the surrounding area, and with completion of this initiative the Olneyville business district will be a welcoming beacon for visitors who want to come here to live, work and play. I support this project because I believe it will provide much needed services that are not available to the residents and business owners of this community.

This area and the surrounding neighborhoods were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and were the most devastated in the entire state. The community has one of the lowest median household incomes in Rhode Island. The 25 Bough Street project will be located in the center of this community providing much needed services for everyone.

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The methodology and vision for the development of this project says to the community “we see you, we care about you”. That mindset combined with the investment to bring this to fruition can and will change lives.

I firmly believe that investing in Olneyville will transform a once blighted area, to a true commerce hub. The community will benefit from the services that will be offered to them at 25 Bough Street, providing them with enriching, educational and enjoyable opportunities,

It is for these reasons that I fully support this project and all that it will bring to our neighborhood. I am grateful for the vision and desire to improve our Olneyville.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Oscar O. Vargas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "O" and "V".

Oscar O. Vargas
Councilman, Ward 15
Providence City Council