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July 5, 2021

Mayor Sharon Powell
201 E Broadway
Excelsior Springs, MO 64024

Dear Mayor Powell,

This letter of endorsement and support is on behalf of the City of Excelsior Springs that is applying for a \$20 million RAISE Grant. Once received, grant funds will be allocated to make vital safety improvements to the Westside of Excelsior Springs.

Currently, the Westside of Excelsior Springs poses several significant challenges regarding pedestrian safety because they have limited access to sidewalks, contend with inaccessible pathways, and encounter deteriorating infrastructures (i.e., streets, roads, & parking lots).

Professionally, the Excelsior Springs Chamber of Commerce and City of Excelsior Springs have had a longstanding partnership. Historically, the Chamber's association with the City has helped us not only meet, but exceed Mission aligned strategic initiatives to improve the quality of life of the communities we serve. For example, we are in the process of finalizing plans for a Westside Community Improvement District in partnership with business and industry leaders and the City. Similar to the proposed Safe Streets & Sidewalks initiative, the CID will enhance safety, accessibility, and functionality for Westside businesses.

Personally, I often run on the Westside and am in a continuous state of hyper awareness due to the dangerous road conditions, traffic, and aforementioned hazards. However, this is my choice, I am more concerned with the numerous employees I pass who walk to work every day. Funding the City's proposal will not only address the significant safety issues but equally importantly help ensure economic vitality for individuals who do not have access to motorized transportation.

I fully support the City's efforts from both a personal and professional perspective and wholeheartedly believe failing to provide the requested \$20 million for the City's Safe Streets & Sidewalks initiative would be an extremely detrimental and unfortunate setback to enhancing the safety and quality of life within the Excelsior community.

For these reasons, and many more, I take great pride and pleasure in supporting the City of Excelsior Springs application for the RAISE Grant. Please let me know if you have any questions via email or call/text 660.909.2746.

Respectfully,

Michael Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.
President & CEO