



DOUGLAS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

November 21, 2022

American Rescue Plan Review Committee
Buffalo City Hall- Room 910
Niagara Square
Buffalo, NY, 14202

Re: Brandi Barrett- Loads of Love
61 Laurel Street, Buffalo

Dear Committee Members:

I am writing this letter of reference in support of Brandi Barrett and the Loads of Love project located at 61 Laurel Street, Buffalo, New York. I met Ms. Barrett through preservation and community engagement efforts to stabilize the historic, 204 High building in the Fruit Belt neighborhood. It was earlier this year the Douglas Development team took the initiative to save the 1871 structure that many developers and investors turned away from. After speaking with city officials and tenured community leaders, it was strongly advised to reach out to Fruit Belt residents before applying for Designated Developer.

Brandi was referred to us by a mutual source, Preservation Buffalo Niagara, which led to a larger community meeting with Fruit Belt organizational founders, stakeholders, and residents. Brandi shared preserving the historic, essential character of her beloved Fruit Belt, as well as the wider East Side of Buffalo, has been a constant during her various roles in her community. She makes the point of preservation as being green advocacy and a way to protect and honor memory. It was Brandi's vision and commitment to her neighborhood that impressed the Douglas Development team.

She shared her goals of developing an eco-friendly mixed-use laundromat on the corner of Laurel and Michigan. After reviewing the project renderings and continuing to learn more about Ms. Barrett's background, we offered to be a mentor and have a continued working relationship to benefit in-kind projects that support the reinvestment of essential services in the community.

With this project and many more, we are committed to supporting Ms. Barrett and her endeavors; her project is a strong candidate to funded by the city's American Rescue Plan.

Best regards,

Paul Millstein
Vice President & Head of Development

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