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July 30, 2021

City of La Crosse Common Council
c/o Dan Trussoni
Parks Forestry Building and Grounds Manager
City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Dear Council Members:

I am writing this letter in support of the re-zoning of property located at 520 Veterans Memorial Drive E., from public / semi-public to commercial district for commercial purposes. The two buildings involved, the old fish hatchery and the garage, are surrounded by the Riverside International Friendship Gardens. These buildings are deteriorating and they need improvements. The Parks Department has made us aware of plans to lease these buildings to Hatchery, LLC. It is our understanding it will be converted to a wedding venue and the garage into a small European-style beer garden.

We have met with the owners of Hatchery, LLC., and they appear eager to work with the Riverside International Friendship Gardens to make the improvements needed for these buildings in such a manner to work with and compliment the International Gardens. It is further our understanding that the lease that would be signed between the City of La Crosse and Hatchery, LLC., will include protections for the International Gardens from any damage caused by their employees, or patrons of the beer garden or the wedding venue for any damage to the Gardens that may be caused by those employees or patrons. It is further our understanding that there will be further protections to make sure that the wedding venue and beer garden will be operated in such a way as to maintain the peaceful atmosphere appropriate for the International Gardens.

We understand the importance to the City of La Crosse to pass the cost of improving these deteriorating buildings from the taxpayer to private business. It is also our understanding that leased revenue from these properties will be used by the Parks Department to benefit Riverside Park in general and the International Gardens.



P.O. Box 3473 La Crosse, WI 54602-3473

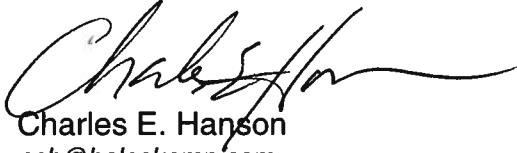
www.riversidegardens.org

(608) 791-GROW or info@riversidegardens.org

With proper protections in place, we believe the City of La Crosse will benefit from the improved buildings and increased revenue, thus reducing the burden on local taxpayers.

Thank you for taking our perspective into consideration as you make your decision.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles E. Hanson", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Charles E. Hanson
ceh@haleskemp.com

CEH/sw