Subject: Public Comment Packet Submission: Feedback on TID No. 24 (June 1st Public Hearing)

Dear City Clerk Nikki Elsen,

Please share this letter with the members of the City Plan Commission including:

Mayor Shaundel Washington-Spivey, Elaine Yager, Jacob Sciammas, Katrina Bjornstad, JenniferTrost, Matt Gallager, Olivia Stine, Aron Newberry and James Szymalak.

Please include it in the packet for the June 1st TID No. 24 public hearing. Thank you for your help!

FEEDBACK REGARDING THE PROPOSED TAX INCREMENTAL DISTRICT NO. 24

Dear Mayor Washington-Spivey and Members of the City Plan Commission,

My name is **Mary Ehrsam-Padesky** and I am a proud resident of La Crosse living at 1323 Farnam St, La Crosse, WI I am writing to you today to share some constructive feedback and request clarification regarding the proposed creation of Tax Incremental District (TID) No. 24.

I am the owner of one of the floating boathouses located on city-owned **Parcel 17-10078-40** along the Black River near Clinton Street. Like many of my neighbors, I love our city's riverfront and want to see La Crosse thrive. However, after reviewing the draft of the Project Plan, I noticed that our floating community sits directly within the proposed boundary lines on **Page 6 and Page 9.**

My specific boathouse has been a part of my family and our local history for **80 years**. It was lovingly maintained by my late father, **James Ehrsam**, whose dedication to preserving our local river culture was even highlighted in a featured story by the *La Crosse Tribune*. Over the generations, my family and the other boathouse owners in our neighborhood have carefully maintained these unique structures with immense pride.

Because of this deep history, our floating boathouses are locally designated landmarks on the City of La Crosse's Heritage Preservation Registry. Back in 2007, the city chose to protect these structures under **Chapter 20 of the Municipal Code** to preserve the exact multigenerational river culture that we represent.

Because we hold annual licenses on this city-owned parcel, we want to ensure that the **$1.3 million in Phase II 'Development Incentives' (Page 20)** will be used to enhance the waterfront *alongside* our historic structures, rather than displacing them. Our goal is to ensure that the city's historic preservation values and the state's Public Trust Doctrine are fully woven into this exciting new development plan.

We would deeply appreciate your guidance and partnership on this. We kindly request that the final Project Plan include a brief, reassuring amendment that explicitly protects the existing historic boathouse licenses within the new district boundaries so that families like mine can continue to care for this heritage for decades to come.

Thank you so much for your time, your dedication to our community, and your consideration of

our historic river heritage.

Best,

Mary Ehrsam
608-769-0959
mehrsampadesky@gmail.com