



Historic East Village
P.O. Box 93904
Des Moines, IA 50393
EastVillageDesMoines.com

Mission: To Lead the Preservation, Support and Development of the East Village Community

January 12, 2015

**2014-15 HEV
Board of Directors**

**Colleen MacRae
President**

**Mark Tezak
Vice-President**

**Andy McCoy
Treasurer**

**Carol Wyckoff
Secretary**

**Sam Erickson
Travis Etchison
Josh Garrett
David Hance
Ashley Holter
Chris LoRang
Braxton Pulley
Keith Snow
Sam Summers
Brad Willemssen
Tyler Wyngarden**

Advisory Members

**Jake Christensen
Guy Cook
Johnny Danos
Bill Van Orsdel**

City Manager Scott Sanders
Councilman Joe Gatto
Des Moines City Hall
400 Robert D. Ray Drive
Des Moines, IA 50309

Mr. Sanders & Councilman Gatto:

This letter is to express the Historic East Village neighborhood association's support for the AC Marriott branded hotel development proposed by Heart of America Group for the southeast corner of East Grand Avenue and East 4th Street.

On October 15, Damen Treblicock and his design team thoroughly briefed Colleen MacRae and I on the proposed project. We were impressed with the design, and discussed it with our full Board during the next regular meeting on October 20. The Board's reaction was also favorable. We have remained in contact with the HOA Group since that time, and have been kept informed as the design has evolved.

We generally support the project for two reasons. First, we believe it will make a strong contribution to the neighborhood's economic vitality. Second, and equally important, we are comfortable the project is a good fit contextually with the East Village neighborhood. The fact AC Marriott as a brand caters to travelers seeking a boutique hotel experience in an urban setting like the East Village provides a good starting point. Beyond that, the developer seems committed to using high-quality materials, to including features that support walkability (including a street-level restaurant aimed at being inviting to the public) and to minimizing disturbance to residential neighbors. The developer has also committed to making the the property "self supporting" in regard to parking, and to working with the neighborhood association to address parking and wayfinding concerns.

We will certainly stay in touch with the City and the developer to closely monitor any design changes as this project goes forward. As always, we appreciate your taking our view into consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Tezak
Vice President, Historic East Village Inc.

Cc: Damen Treblicock, Senior Vice President, Heart of America Group
Colleen MacRae, President, Historic East Village Inc.
Board Members, Historic East Village Inc.