

## **To Our Community,**

As members of the Bloomington City Council, we offer this update to reaffirm our support for the Convention Center expansion and to set the record straight on recent public questions. This project is progressing exactly as planned, following a framework that was approved through multiple public processes over several years. There have been no changes to the scope of work, and no new appropriation has been requested.

The funding in question—a \$4.4 million purchase order for architectural and engineering services—was approved in 2019 and has been used appropriately under the structure the Council endorsed. Payments from this existing appropriation are being made through the city controller's office using a direct pay process that has been clearly defined and publicly communicated. These are not surprise expenditures; they are consistent with what has been budgeted, authorized, and transparently tracked.

The Capital Improvement Board (CIB) has carried out its responsibilities with professionalism, integrity, and care. As a volunteer board tasked with managing a complex public project, their work has been thorough, transparent, and well-aligned with community expectations. The project is not over budget, and thanks to strong planning and cost controls—including a new set of budget-reduction alternates—the CIB is positioned to keep the project on sound financial footing as it moves into construction.

We regret that recent confusion and public speculation may have cast unwarranted doubt on their work and caused unnecessary concern. The board deserves our appreciation and trust as they continue to move this project forward.

While some confusion arose from a recent council meeting, we remain confident in the systems of accountability in place and appreciate the public's interest in understanding them. Transparency and public oversight remain central to this project. We invite all residents to continue engaging with both the Council and the CIB throughout its progression.

We remain committed to seeing this project through, and we believe it will bring long-term value to the people of Bloomington and Monroe County.

Sincerely,

Isak Asare

Courtney Daily

Dave Rollo

Andy Ruff

Sydney Zulich