

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Khalil Rahad
Wayne County Economic Development Department
500 Griswold Street, 28th Floor
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Khalil,

My office greatly appreciates Wayne County including the City of Livonia as part of the process for evaluating the future reuse of the Newburgh Mill property. As part of that process, the committee considered several options ranging from a variety of food- and beverage-serving establishments to medical offices, general retail, senior assisted living, and multi-family apartments. Representatives of the City serving on the committee agree with the County that transforming the building for use as a brewpub or micro-distillery, possibly combined with a small café or coffee shop, is preferred. The final selection of a developer should place significant weight on his/her experience with projects that resulted in the successful preservation of local historic resources.

Another important consideration is matching the developer with the brewpub and/or distillery operator who has the requisite experience and passion for delivering high-quality products and services that are deserving of the overall development. We also recognize that additional development on the land may be necessary in order to make the project financially viable. It is our belief that this can be done in a way that fully complements the primary use of the Mill as a brewpub and/or distillery as well as the surrounding public land. This might include properly scaled retail or retail services, such as a secondary food-service establishment (i.e., ice cream shop) or recreational equipment sales/rentals.

Lastly, and equally important to the above considerations, is how the development serves to encourage and expand the public enjoyment of the lakefront and surrounding open space. To this end, the committee discussed options such as a promenade or boardwalk and viewing platform, along with the possibility of an interpretive garden or other gathering space.

We offer these suggestions with the realization that the ultimate decision rests with the Wayne County Commission and the Livonia City Council. We stand ready to assist the County in seeing that any potential redevelopment of the property is done in a way that brings the best use for the overall benefit of the community.

Sincerely,

Dennis K. Wright
MAYOR