<insert date>

RE: Pizzuti Redevelopment Proposal for Former Giant Eagle at 280 E. Whittier Street

Dear Columbus City Council Members:

I support the proposal submitted by Pizzuti Companies for several reasons. First, it helps re-populate a neighborhood that has faced substantial de-population over the past six decades. Second, the building design is appropriate for its highly urban context. Third, it is located along a transit line and near the city’s premier neighborhood park. In 1960, there were 21,223 people living on Columbus’ thriving South Side (defined as the four census tracts that nearly comprise German Village, Brewery District, Schumacher Place, and Merion Village). Today, there are only 12,000 residents in the same area. This project is one of many future projects that will inject life and vitality into the community.

The property, located in Schumacher Place, is not in a regulated historic district and represents an amazing opportunity to correct the suburban design of the former Giant Eagle site. Replacing a big-box store’s surface parking lot with a residential building that respects the pedestrian experience is exactly the type of project the neighborhood deserves. The building, with a maximum height of 62 feet, is substantially shorter than the nearby historic Barrett Middle School, which has a peak of 75 feet. If built as proposed, hundreds more people will enjoy the amenities of these near South Side neighborhoods and get to experience the benefits of living in one of Columbus best areas.

Though I would like to see a structure that offers more residential units, I can acknowledge that some neighbors are opposed to having more neighbors—despite the significant population loss of the South Side. Furthermore, constructing additional housing units will help alleviate our region’s severe housing shortage. For too long, wealthy neighborhoods have denied access to high-opportunity areas by fighting multi-family housing development. All communities should share in contributing crucial housing options throughout our growing region. Considering this proposal has been recommended for approval by all necessary city departments, the resident-led South Side Area Commission, and the Development Commission, we are hopeful that members of City Council will also support this critical additional of housing.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Kindest Regards,

<insert name>