From: Nicole Fowles
To: Council Clerk
Subject: Public Comment in Support of Agenda Item 15, Ordinance No. 25-05
Date: Saturday, March 8, 2025 9:04:48 AM

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Council Members,

I am writing in support of the OBJ/Maridel Mixed-Use Development at the southwest corner of US-42 and Sawmill Parkway.

As a Delaware resident since 2009, I have had the joy of watching our community grow and thrive. My husband and I chose to make our home here because of Delaware's welcoming atmosphere, vibrant downtown, and convenient access to metropolitan amenities. Over the years, we have become deeply invested in this city—working here, serving on nonprofit boards, and proudly sending our children to Delaware City Schools.

The OBJ/Maridel project represents an exciting opportunity for our community. This development is a logical and forward-thinking step that fills a key niche, offering long-term benefits for residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

As a strong supporter of the arts, I am particularly excited about the prospect of a 6,000-seat amphitheater. Hosting regional and national acts, as well as providing a space for local organizations and performances, this venue will firmly establish Delaware as a cultural and entertainment destination. A development of this scale also necessitates a hospitality component, including hotels, restaurants, and retail, ensuring that visitors have convenient access to accommodations and amenities.

Additionally, I believe this project will enhance—not detract from—our beloved downtown. When visiting other cities, I naturally gravitate toward local businesses and restaurants, and I am confident that this mixed-use development will complement our existing small-business community by attracting new visitors and boosting economic activity.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I urge you to vote in favor of this rezoning request and to support a vision for Delaware that embraces growth, opportunity, and community enrichment.

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