



Dear Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the Market Center of Ideas Board of Directors, I would like to offer a statement regarding the proposed preliminary development plan for co-working space at 210 SW Market Street and 211 SW Jefferson Street submitted by Ben Rao of Community Buying Group.

As you are aware, the Market Center of Ideas was conceived through the development of the Lee's Summit Economic Development vision statement. The purpose behind the creation of the Market Center of Ideas is "to provide high quality mentoring and leadership services, administrative support, and low cost facilities to growth oriented companies that will result in positive business activity and job creation in Lee's Summit, Missouri."

The work of the Market Center of Ideas Board of Directors, as well as the work of its volunteers before us, has been focused on its stated purpose, as well as the piece of the Economic Development vision that calls for the creation and nurturing of a business environment that fosters entrepreneurship. To deliver on this vision and its component parts, our Board has sought to identify Lee's Summit as a healthy and vibrant entrepreneurial community. The focus of this effort has included identifying locations and facilities within the community where entrepreneurs can flourish. Board members have completed site visits to well established KC Metro co-working facilities, met with potential owners of future Lee's Summit entrepreneurial based co-working facilities, engaged with our City's existing business leader entrepreneurs, and developed working relationships with multiple highly regarded professional resource partners that specialize in developing successful entrepreneurial community ecosystems. Commensurate with these endeavors is the equal task of promoting Lee's Summit as a destination community for entrepreneurial support and unique growth opportunities.

In an effort to further these objectives, the Market Center of Ideas Board of Directors supports any worthwhile project or initiative in our community, similar to Mr. Rao's plan, which reinforces the growth of entrepreneurship.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chuck Cooper".

Chuck Cooper
President
Market Center of Ideas Board of Directors

12/7/16

Date



DOWNTOWN

LEE'S SUMMIT MAIN STREET

December 8, 2016

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City of Lee's Summit
220 SE Green Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

RE: Co-Work Lee's Summit

Dear Mayor and City Council,

The Board of Directors of Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street believe that a project, when brought to fruition, will encourage entrepreneurial development, bring new businesses and investors to Downtown Lee's Summit, and provide additional commercial and pedestrian activity. Co-working spaces work well to encourage the start-up of new businesses and collaboration between businesses. As these businesses grow, so will their impact on our city and our Downtown, and some of these newly grown endeavors will permanently locate in Downtown, enriching our mix of businesses and residents.

Yours Truly,

Lynn Hinkle
President
Downtown Lee's Summit Main Street Board of Directors



LEE'S SUMMIT CHAMBER

Mr. Ben Rao
226 SE Douglas Street
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

Dear Mr. Rao,

On behalf of the Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, we wish to extend our support and thank you for wanting to see more entrepreneurship development in Lee's Summit. Your vision to establish a co-working space in the old post office could be another great addition to downtown community. The growth and development of entrepreneurship has always been a key goal for the Lee's Summit Chamber. Your plan of attracting and developing entrepreneurs with this co-working space is exciting and one we hope comes to fruition.

Lee's Summit has become the center of action where vision, growth and where entrepreneurship can thrive and be expanded, a co-working facility is a great next step. If we can be of any assistance with the furthering of your development plan or programming ideas please let us know. Again, we applaud you for having the vision to step up and lead the efforts from the private sector to bring this from concept to reality.

Sincerely,

Tim Arbeiter, President
Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce