Letter of Support for the 7th Street Housing Project

10/8/2025

Dear Council Members,

Introduction: Purpose and Support for the Project

As small business owners in Northport, Michigan, we are writing to share our strong and unwavering support for the proposed housing project on 7th Street. This initiative is not only timely—it is essential for the sustainability and future growth of our businesses and the wider village community.

Background: Housing Needs for Local Workers and Small Businesses

Our businesses depend on local employees, many of whom face daily challenges in securing attainable housing within Northport. The shortage of affordable homes has become a major obstacle to hiring and retaining a stable workforce. The 7th Street housing project presents a critical opportunity to address these needs, in a way that honors the character and spirit of Northport.

Counterarguments: Wetlands and Property Character

We recognize concerns regarding the wetlands and environmental features of the 7th Street area. It is important to note, however, that existing homes in the surrounding neighborhoods were built on similar types of land. The proposed development will adhere to all relevant environmental standards, and its location and design fit the established character of Northport's residential areas. Responsible development and environmental stewardship should go hand-in-hand.

Community Impact: Importance of Year-Round Residents and Affordable Housing

Attainable housing is not simply a matter of convenience—it is vital to the ongoing health of our community. Year-round residents truly form the backbone of Northport; they contribute to our schools, businesses, and civic life. By expanding affordable housing

options, we ensure Northport remains inclusive and welcoming for all, not just those who can afford vacation properties.

Critique of Opposition: Non-Resident Influence and Misinformation

We urge the council to remember that many of the opponents to this project are not full-time residents. While we respect all voices in the public sphere, it is crucial that the needs of those who live and work here throughout the year are given priority. Misinformation and fear-based opposition must not outweigh the pressing needs of local families and workers. Standing against attainable housing ultimately harms small businesses and the fabric of Northport itself.

Call to Action: Council's Responsibility and Invitation for Dialogue

We welcome open and respectful conversation with all members of our community, including those who oppose the project. At the same time, we call on the council to prioritize the needs of Northport's year-round residents and working class over the interests of vacation homeowners. By supporting the 7th Street housing project, you will help secure a more sustainable and equitable future for Northport, Michigan.

Conclusion: Urging Council to Support Project

Thank you for your attention and your dedication to Northport's future. Please recognize the importance of this moment and support the 7th Street housing project for the benefit of our businesses, our employees, and all who call Northport home.

Sincerely,

Business Name	Owner Name	Signature	Date
Little Beauty Kitchen LLC ,	Kelly Kehl ,	Kelly Kehl	10/13/2025