



UNIVERSITY
ST. THOMAS

Office of the President

July 27, 2015

Mr. Andrew F. Icken
Chief Development Officer
City of Houston
901 Bagby
Houston, Texas 77002

Dear Mr. Icken:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the University of St. Thomas to express our support for the proposed annexation of the St. Thomas campus into the boundaries of Tax Increment Zone Number 2, commonly known as Midtown. We believe that this annexation will aid in achieving the goal of improving the public infrastructure in and around our campus and assist us in building a first class academic experience for our students, faculty, and visitors.

We believe that our university will make future contributions to the Houston Community. We are pleased that a new Performing Arts Center is our next major fundraising initiative. The Center will provide our students and community with the facilities to further the performing arts and broaden the education we offer. In addition, we have begun the restoration and renovation of the historic Link-Lee Mansion. This beautiful building is on the National Historic Registry and will be the future home of the university president. We request your support for these major initiatives.

The University of St. Thomas is a small private university in the heart of Houston that has been a fixture of the community for nearly 70 years. We keep high faculty to student ratio to ensure the best possible learning environment for our students. Despite our modest size, we have had an outsized impact on the City of Houston with St. Thomas alumni well represented in government, non-profits, and corporations.

As part of our current capital campaign, the University and its benefactors plan to invest approximately \$170 million into campus buildings and related amenities; accordingly, the University understands the potential opportunity that may arise from the Midtown annexation and fully support this action.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With faith in our future,

Robert Ivany
President

cc: Barron Wallace
Representative Garnett Coleman