



**THE COUNCIL
CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
MARION COUNTY**

BRIAN MAHERN
Councillor, District 16

July 14, 2008

Mr. Chuck Coleman
President
NESCO
2236 E. 10th Street
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Dear Chuck:

I am writing to express my support and thanks for the Near East Side Community Organization (NESCO) and the important work it has done on the Near Eastside for almost 40 years.

Through the establishment of the multi-service center, which has now grown into the state-of-the-art John H. Boner Center, and the newest tradition of the Feast of Lanterns, NESCO has made real and substantial contributions to the quality of life for the area's residents. I also applaud the important role that NESCO is playing in the implementation of the Near Eastside Quality of Life Plan as part of the Great Indy Neighborhoods Initiative (GINI), which has given voice to the dreams and hopes of Near Eastside residents for how to make their neighborhoods better places to live.

As you know, the Near Eastside has many good qualities and characteristics, such as a real sense of history and community among its mix of long-time residents and relatively new neighbors. With the price of gas climbing ever higher, the Near Eastside enjoys a real geographic advantage with its very close proximity to downtown. I believe we must capitalize on these advantages as we work together to revitalize the Near Eastside by attracting new residents and businesses.

Yet, we will never really succeed in breathing new life into the Near Eastside, if we fail to preserve the inherent quality of diversity that has long been the strength of the Near Eastside. We must ensure that we do not lose sight of the interests of the Near Eastside residents who come from a variety of backgrounds and economic circumstances, as efforts are undertaken to address the issue of housing rehabilitation. Preserving affordable housing must be a necessary component in making the Near Eastside new again.

I look forward to continuing to work along side with NESCO in keeping the essence of the old Near Eastside and blending it with the new.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Mahern".

Brian Mahern

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