



November 1, 2018

To: Oak Park Village Board of Trustees
From: John Lynch, Executive Director, OPEDC
Re: Letter of Support – MOJO Text Amendment and Special Use Request

The Oak Park Economic Development Corporation is providing this letter in support of the proposed text amendment and special use requested by MOJO.

In recent years, Downtown Oak Park has become a commercial district that offers a true live, work, play experience, with a diverse mix of commercial uses that serve both residents and daytime office workers. As presented, MOJO's concept aligns with this evolution and will provide a unique space to host functions, co-work, and socialize, that does not currently exist in the district. While this concept is new to Oak Park, flexible work spaces that can accommodate daytime and evening uses are increasingly common and have proven to be additive to a downtown.

MOJO's founders, Ron and Kristen Halverson, are long-term residents of Oak Park and have owned and operated their business, The Halverson Group, at 193 North Marion for the past 14 years. Their vested interest in Oak Park gives us confidence that MOJO will be well run and a good neighbor. We welcome their continued investment in Oak Park and see the transformation of 193 N Marion Street into a more active, customer facing business, as a positive addition to the district, particularly at this critical northern gateway.

Additionally, we support the Village staff's recommended approach to the text amendment and the addition of "Work Lounge" as a use within the DT District. We view this as a constructive way to maintain the character of the district while also providing the opportunity for a new type of business that aligns with the existing tenant mix to seek relief.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Lynch
Executive Director
OPEDC

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