



## **EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES INCORPORATED**

### **THE GLADYS H. OBERLE SCHOOL**

**eri-va.com**

14 April 2021


To Whom It May Concern,

ERI/The Gladys H. Oberle School is a non-profit school serving special needs students from 10 surrounding communities. Many of our students come from financially challenged families, group homes, or in foster care and may not have the opportunity to take advantage of "hands-on" formal learning experiences in agriculture, environmental education, and land conservation. Typically, those types of activities require significant travel times, additional transportation expenses, and lost educational time. The acquisition by Downtown Greens of additional land adjacent to downtown Fredericksburg and Oberle school grounds would significantly expand the educational opportunities for our special needs students.

Most of our students will not have the opportunity or ability to attend school beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Consequently, we are expanding our student transition services for our young adults to enhance their independent living skills through, among others, various horticultural programs like grounds maintenance, gardening, and like skills to provide to them other arenas for career/workforce development and to open their eyes to careers beyond fast food and sitting in front of a computer screen. Downtown Greens ability to acquire and preserve additional agricultural space would further cement our joint ability to provide opportunities for our community's future.

Downtown Greens and The Gladys H. Oberle school often serve the same student populations with overlapping goals to provide youth with the education and skills they need to become successfully employed, self-sufficient and contributing members of their community through enriched outdoor educational experiences.

ERI/The Gladys H. Oberle School fully supports the outstanding environmental efforts and accomplishments of Downtown Greens and looks forward to further enhance our partnership in educating our youth and providing other educational opportunities for all our community members.

  
Roarke Anderson  
President

**ERI is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit**

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