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January 11, 2017

Dear Forty Under 40 Committee,

I am Mike Dayton, a shareholder at Nyemaster Goode P.C. and a member of the Business Record's 2014 Forty Under 40 class. I'm proud to nominate Pete De Kock for the 2017 Forty Under 40 class.

First, let me name my biases. Pete and I are cousins. We're the proud great-grandsons of Enrico "Mike" Garatoni and Maria Garatoni who immigrated to Iowa during the Great Atlantic Migration and established their family in Webster County. We grew up in Eastern Iowa--Pete in Muscatine and me in Iowa City--and completed high school and our undergraduate degrees in our home state. Most importantly, though, we both inherited our family's traditions of civic responsibility, advocacy for our neighbors, love of family, and commitment to building vibrant and resilient communities. Throughout his studies and career Pete has modeled these values. I'm grateful he and his family decided to move back to Iowa just over a year ago and make Des Moines their home. In that short time our community has already benefited from their leadership and engagement.

Pete is the Executive Director of the Des Moines Social Club, which has given him opportunities to work on multiple critical issues facing Des Moines businesses including recruiting and retaining workforce talent, downtown development, and stewarding an environment where people from every neighborhood and suburb meet and build relationships that make our city stronger.

Pete was not a stranger to civic involvement even before joining the Social Club. He served as District Director for a member of the U.S. House of Representatives; and at Interfaith Youth Core in Chicago, he and his colleagues taught thousands of college students, faculty, administrators and staff how to elucidate common values among religious and non-religious people, establishing relationships that bridged differences and brought about common work for the common good.

I believe Pete to already be an extremely important part of the future of Des Moines. He's a gritty, energetic, and pragmatic leader and I'm excited he's now helping lead Des Moines and the broader region.

Thanks for considering this nomination. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Dayton