

# METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



MEGAN BARRY  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
PHONE: (615) 862-6000  
EMAIL: [mayor@nashville.gov](mailto:mayor@nashville.gov)

July 25, 2017

The Honorable John Cooper  
The Honorable Erica Gilmore  
The Honorable Bob Mendes  
The Honorable Sharon Hurt  
The Honorable Jim Shulman  
Metropolitan Council Office  
One Public Square, Suite 204  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

Dear At-Large Councilmembers Cooper, Gilmore, Mendes, Hurt and Shulman,

Thank you so much for your letter dated July 19<sup>th</sup>. I appreciate you reaching out with your thoughts about preservation for parks and open space. I also appreciate your concerns about recognizing and honoring the history of this special place.

I think there is a lot of miscommunication about what is actually being proposed to replace the crumbling and dilapidated Greer stadium – which currently occupies this space. The site which is being considered for park space, green space, affordable housing for working families, and artist and maker space is currently covered primarily by an asphalt parking lot and empty baseball stadium.

The need for more green and active park space, affordable housing, artist and maker space are refrains I hear all the time from Council and from the community. We have a unique opportunity to do all of that and still honor and preserve Fort Negley and the historic contributions of African-Americans to the defense of our nation. In the proposal submitted by the Cloud Hill Partnership, they have a detailed plan for discovering and protecting any archeological remains at this site, to include pre-construction research, reconnaissance and planning before any shovels enter the ground.

In order to create the scope of the RFQ, we engaged the community. We held public meetings which were hosted by both Councilmember Colby Sledge and Metro Parks. The RFQ review panel included advocates for Fort Negley Park, the Wedgewood Houston and Edgehill neighborhoods, as well as Metro experts on parks, planning, and small business development. The intent is to host more community meetings as the process moves forward.

The Honorable John Cooper  
The Honorable Erica Gilmore  
The Honorable Bob Mendes  
The Honorable Sharon Hurt  
The Honorable Jim Shulman  
July 25, 2017  
Page Two

Each of you and your fellow members of the Council are an important part of the ongoing process. Ultimately, each of you and your fellow Councilmembers will be asked to decide what you want to see as this can only move forward with your approval, with the Metro Park board approval and the Historic Zoning Commission approval.

I hope that you will remain open-minded and hear what this proposal can do for all Nashvillians.

We appreciate your patience as the procurement process continues, and we look forward to working with you to craft a proposal that will meet the many diverse needs of the community.

Kind regards,

Megan Barry  
Mayor

