

August 20, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

We are members of the Executive Committee of the West Louisville Food Port Community Council which was convened by Seed Capital Kentucky. The Community Council is a volunteer organization of Louisville residents who for more than two years worked with Seed Capital to provide input regarding community benefits related to the West Louisville Food Port development. We consider ourselves partners with Seed Capital Kentucky in a process of responsible development. This is evident through the work we completed through our standing Workforce Development and Community Benefits work groups. Our efforts show the power of public-private partnerships to mobilize a community around hope and opportunities resulting from responsible, community focused development.

We believe the use of the HUD Section 108 loan guarantee for large scale projects in West Louisville is an appropriate use of this resource in order to stimulate West Louisville's economy by creating jobs and entrepreneurial opportunities for our low-to moderate-income residents. We believed the West Louisville Food Port Project was an example of a project with that type of potential. We commend Louisville Metro Government (LMG) for considering the West Louisville Food Port project for the Section 108 loan guarantee.

The use of the HUD Section 108 loan guarantee and Community Development Block Grant allocations are a valuable resource in stimulating West Louisville's economy. However, responsible use of these resources influenced by community input is vital. We encourage LMG to consider the following when considering subsequent proposals:

- Offer greater transparency by providing a forum where West Louisville residents, institutions and business owners can learn about the HUD Section 108 loan guarantee process in preparation for presenting proposals.
- Broaden the discussion regarding proposed use of the Section 108 loan guarantee to include West Louisville developers.
- Issue an RFP for the use of Section 108 loan guarantees or development of LMG owned vacant or underutilized property.
- West Louisville residents must be apprised of and provide comment regarding any large scale developments proposed for property owned by LMG or subsidized with government supported financial incentives.

The West Louisville Food Port Community Council intends to continue to be a conscientious, advocate for responsible development in West Louisville. As members of the Community Council's Executive Committee, we are committed to working with the community to explore alternatives for responsible development focusing on community driven benefits. The Executive Committee is convening a meeting of the Community Council on August 29th to discuss the above strategies and welcomes input from Metro as we discuss next steps.

Seed Capital Kentucky began the process of mobilizing the community around responsible development. We intend to further this process. Our members are available to facilitate community input as LMG considers future development projects in West Louisville.

Respectfully submitted,

West Louisville Food Port Community Council Executive Committee  
Reverend Rene' Brown, West Louisville at Large Representative  
Bonnie Cole, Shawnee Neighborhood Representative  
Natasha Cummings, West Louisville at Large Representative  
Jeana Dunlap, Community at Large Representative  
Marshall Gazaway, Russell Neighborhood Representative  
Verna' Goatley, Shawnee Neighborhood Representative  
Yureka Lancaster, Russell Neighborhood Representative  
Ramona Lindsey, Community at Large Representative  
Valerie Magnuson, Portland Neighborhood Representative