

August 20, 2016

Dear Mayor Fischer,

We are writing to share our disappointment regarding Seed Capital Kentucky's decision to cancel the West Louisville Food Port Project. Caroline Heine, Project Manager for Seed Capital Kentucky, met with the Executive Committee of the Community Council the morning before the decision was finalized. We agreed together that moving forward with the project without the anchor tenant would not be a community benefit. It was important to our group that the project be in a position to attain the community benefits related to job creation and community space that we planned together. However, we are not deterred by the news. We see it as an opportunity.

Seed Capital Kentucky has helped our community to mobilize around hope and opportunities resulting from responsible, community focused development. The Executive Committee of the Community Council is resolved to leading the West Louisville Community Council as a conscientious, advocate for responsible large scale development in West Louisville. The FoodPort is canceled, but we are committed to being the group of concerned citizens who can facilitate community input as it relates to large scale West Louisville development on vacant/abandoned property owned by Louisville Metro Government.

We considered 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 are available to continue similar discussions with potential West Louisville developers.

This two year process has taught us a great deal and we want to take this moment to offer our insight on the use of HUD Section 108 loan guarantees and Community Development Block Grant allocations for large scale projects in West Louisville. We believe this 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. However, responsible use of these resources influenced by community input is vital. We encourage LMG to consider the following when preparing subsequent proposals for development of LMG owned vacant/abandoned property:

- Offer greater transparency by providing a forum where West Louisville residents, leaders, 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 and Community Development Block Grant allocations to include West Louisville developers and entrepreneurs.
- Issue an RFP for the use of Section 108 loan guarantees, Community Block Grant Allocations, or development of LMG owned vacant/abandoned property.
- West Louisville residents must be apprised of and provide comment regarding any large scale developments proposed for vacant/abandoned property owned by LMG.

The West Louisville 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 29, 2016 at 6:00pm in the Louisville Urban League's main conference room 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 in West Louisville. We represent West Louisville, we care for her future and we intend to further the process initiated by Seed Capital Kentucky. Our members are available to facilitate community input as LMG considers future development projects in West Louisville. We hope we can continue to journey together as we strive to transform West Louisville into our nation's model community.

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