



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

GREG FISCHER  
MAYOR

June 23, 2022

Re: Ordinance No. 076, Series 2022

Dear Members of the Metro Council,

I am signing and returning the above-referenced Ordinance and including this letter as an explanation of the ultimate delay this Ordinance will now cause in determining the future of Cherokee Golf Course.

In 2019, Louisville Metro received one response to a Request for Proposal for Metro Golf Courses. That response, from Olmsted Parks Conservancy, proposed to enhance Cherokee Park by making improvements and investments to repurpose the golf course property into active and diverse parkland.

In compliance with LMCO § 42.44, Louisville Parks & Recreation initiated the required process to receive Metro Council approval to repurpose the Cherokee Golf Course. In late April of this year, Louisville Parks & Recreation hosted the required two public meetings and received extensive public feedback. These meetings were attended by nearly 500 people with 85 speaking publicly on the matter. Additionally, Louisville Parks & Recreation received 245 letters/emails from interested residents expressing their opinion on the future of the golf course. Of all the public feedback received, more than half supported the Olmstead proposal.

On May 16, 2022, the above data and the information and documents required by LMCO § 42.44(C)(1)-(4) were provided to the Metro Council and a vote on the Olmsted Parks Conservancy proposal to repurpose the Cherokee Golf Course was requested.

Shortly thereafter, the above-referenced Ordinance was introduced and subsequently approved by the full Metro Council. This Ordinance suspends the process required by LMCO § 42.44 that Louisville Parks & Recreation had already conducted and received positive support from the public. Not only is this frustrating to the public, and a waste of the time and resources of public employees who spent considerable time on this endeavor, it creates confusion for everyone. This Ordinance changes the process for determining the future of a Metro golf course in the middle of the ongoing repurposing process for Cherokee Golf Course. All of the work, by public and Metro Council, already done for the repurposing of Cherokee Golf Course is now for naught.

The abrupt change in the process in the midst of the ongoing repurpose discussions of Cherokee Golf Course diminishes public trust and sends a message their voice does not matter.

Per Ordinance No. 076, Series 2022, Parks will issue a Request for Proposals within a month. Subsequently, we ask that the Council work collaboratively with the administration to resolve the issue before us regarding the Cherokee Golf Course.

Sincerely,

Greg Fischer  
Mayor

[WWW.LOUISVILLEKY.GOV](http://WWW.LOUISVILLEKY.GOV)

LOUISVILLE METRO HALL 527 WEST JEFFERSON STREET LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY 40202 502.574.2003

ORDINANCE NO. 076, SERIES 2022

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 42 OF THE LOUISVILLE/ JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO CODE OF ORDINANCES (“LMCO”) TO PERMIT A MANAGER TO MANAGE 9 HOLE COURSES, ~~TO SET A MAXIMUM NUMBER OF GOLF COURSES PERMITTED WHICH MAY BE MANAGED BY NONPROFIT ENTITIES,~~ AND TO REQUIRE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FOR ANY GOLF COURSE MANAGED BY THE METRO GOVERNMENT FOR LONGER THAN ONE YEAR (AS AMENDED).

**SPONSORED BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS FOWLER, FOX, KRAMER, PARKER, AND HOLTON STEWART**

~~WHEREAS, Metro Council believes it is in the best interest of Metro Government to amend Chapter 42 to set a maximum number of golf courses which may be managed by nonprofit entities; and~~

**WHEREAS,** Metro Council believes the community’s interest in preserving golf may be best served by authorizing experienced golf course managers without a PGA Pro certification to operate certain golf courses.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (“COUNCIL”) AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION I:** LMCO Section 42.43(A) is hereby amended as follows:

(A) The person or entity must be or employ a Class A PGA Member (“Pro”) to manage each Metro-owned public golf course, or, for Metro-owned nine-hole courses only, an entry level PGA Pro, who: (1) shall have commenced the process to acquire Class A PGA Membership prior to the execution of any Metro golf course management contract; and (2) shall provide sufficient evidence of continued enrollment in the PGA program to Metro Parks on a biannual basis; and (3) shall complete such accreditation within two years of execution of the contract. PGA Professionals shall be provided the opportunity to submit

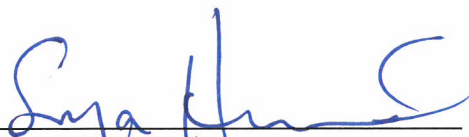
proposals on all individual Metro-owned public golf courses. Pros in the process of acquiring Class A PGA Membership as outlined herein may submit proposals on Metro-owned nine-hole golf courses; provided, however, and for nine-hole courses only, if no satisfactory proposal is received from a Pro or Entry-Level Pro, Metro may contract with a person or entity who employs an experienced manager who demonstrates qualifications to manage a public golf course;


**SECTION II:** LMCO Section 42.43 is hereby amended to add the following:

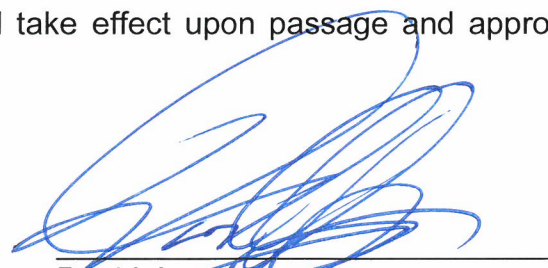
~~(K) Only two Metro-owned golf courses may be managed by entities formed under Chapter 273 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes or the equivalent nonprofit corporation laws of another state. The remaining Metro-owned golf courses shall be managed by for-profit entities.~~

~~(L) If Metro Parks has managed a golf course for longer than one year, it then Metro Parks shall let a Request for Proposal soliciting proposals from third party entities to manage that golf course as a golf course.~~

**SECTION III:** This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and approval or otherwise becoming law.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sonya Harward  
Metro Council Clerk

  
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Greg Fischer  
Mayor

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David James  
President of the Metro Council

6/23/2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval Date

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

Michael J. O'Connell  
Jefferson County Attorney

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

LOUISVILLE METRO COUNCIL  
READ AND PASSED  
*June 9, 2022*

O-166-22 Golf Course Ordinance Nonprofit Limitation and Management Change V.3 pr-hh 6-9-22