

Residents to city: Move forward with Paristown Green. Now

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As Paristown residents, we plead with Metro Louisville officials to approve and move forward NOW with the Paristown Green proposal by Underhill Associates. Our inner city neighborhood has suffered over the past decade of disuse with the vacant blighted former Urban Government Center. And we are highly frustrated by the past six years of futile city efforts to revitalize this neglected property.

The Paristown Green project will bring much needed public benefits, amenities and services such as a grocery, senior housing, Bellarmine graduate student housing as well as space for its nursing program and the phenomenal Thrive Center, which fosters synergies of geriatric care innovation. It will also restore the architecturally significant former Baptist Hospital. Repurposing this landmark and the embodied energy of its materials is the best form of green 'sustainable' construction. This will minimize disruption to our neighborhood as well as reduce the carbon footprint and lessen debris going to the landfill.

As to asbestos abatement and hazardous materials in this historic structure, these will need to be remediated regardless of preservation or demolition. The city had already committed to funding environmental cleanup and demolition in the previous Marian Group proposal, and they should still be willing to provide this funding of \$5 million or more for the Metro-owned property.

As residents, we have watched as our city officials give millions to out-of-state billionaire companies like the \$140 million handed out to Omni for a luxury hotel and upscale elite apartments with NO area resident benefits. We ask now that the city support us taxpayers and this local developer.

The \$14 million total request in city funding is pennies compared to the tremendous economic impact this project will have on our urban renaissance. This current project proposal is truly a 'game changer' based on years of public input.

We actually live in Paristown as opposed to others who advocate for a third round of proposals. We do not need another hotel, nor more office space, and certainly not a mega parking garage. The city has already struck out once. It will lose all credibility with a second strikeout. Mayor Fischer, Councilman Arthur and all other council members: hear us, please! Let's get Paristown Green by Underhill