Iroquois Civic Club Incorporated dba Iroquois Neighborhood Association

Dear Metro Council Members,

My Name is Tony Buzan. I am a member of the Iroquois Neighborhood Association, whose boundaries include residents living in both District's 21 and 25. But the INA has a long history of working with neighborhoods beyond our physical boundaries to provide funding for needed improvements. Our participation in the New Cut, Taylor Study group, both the original group in 2012 and the present day group, directly impact residents of Districts 12, 13, and 15. For the past two years the INA has worked with the Southwest Dream Team, the residents of multiple Metro Council Districts and their Representatives to develop a framework through Economic development, land use and corridor identity and mobility to identify and prioritize, projects and community needs that require funding. We work with the Olmsted Foundation to identify capital needs in Iroquois Park and the Iroquois Amphitheater that are not included in Parks budget. Although advocacy is critical, capital resources provided by the neighborhood serves the community far beyond one Council District or neighborhood's boundaries. With this in mind we are developing a self-sustaining event to provide funds for projects that would normally go unrealized.

We have summited a NDF grant, which passed through the Appropriations Committee August 31, 2022, and is scheduled to be considered by the full Metro Council Thursday, September 8, 2022.

The NDF grant is a onetime request to provide seed money to pay for the entertainment at the first "Mayor's New Year's Eve Bash", which is intended to be an annual, signature event to be hosted in Louisville's South End. "The Bash" is a fundraiser for shared community amenities in the neighborhoods surrounding Iroquois Park, including Iroquois and Southland Park. It will directly impact residents of Districts 12, 15, 21 and 25. This year our proceeds will focus on safety in our neighborhoods, including additional lighting and overtime for the LMPD. Forty percent of the proceeds from the inaugural event will be set aside to reinvest in the event the following year, making it self-sustaining.

We have partnered with Underhill Associates; they have agreed to donate Colonial Gardens as the venue to host the event. The BA Colonial Restaurant has agreed to provide a dinner package. The Iroquois Neighborhood Association has pledged 300 volunteer hours to ensure the event is a success. We have engaged the Democratic and Republican Mayoral candidates, and both have made a commitment to participate, if elected. Because the newly elected Mayor will not be sworn into office until 2023, this year's historic event will also serve as the Mayor Elect's Pre-Inaugural Ball.

Beginning in late November, we will decorate the outdoor courtyard like a Winter Wonderland to raise everyone's holiday spirit and create excitement leading up to New Year's Eve. Entertainment will be provided by the Louisville Crashers.

The full amount of the NDF request is $15,000.00; $5,000.00 of that amount has already been pledged by District 21 Councilwoman Nicole George. Time is of the essence to successfully plan an event, without the seed money necessary at this critical juncture this project and its potential benefits will have to be abandoned. For these reasons we hope that you will give your consideration to joining Councilwoman George to help fully fund this unique, self-sustaining, South Louisville event.

Thank You

Tony Buzan