

**Captioning Transcript of Labor and Economic Development Committee Meeting -
November 1, 2022**

"Chair Dorsey"

60 seconds.

Counsel endorsing yes. In Kramer I'll be tardy for the meeting, so I will not be participating until.

Okay, thank you.

Welcome to the regularly scheduled labor and economic development committee meeting. I'm your chair counsel with Darcy. I am joined by my vice chair councilman.

robin incl, I'm joined in chambers by councilman Donna purpose.

Councilman Mulvihill requests and excuse tardiness Madam clerk.

Please note if he's unable to arrive, we want to convert that to unexcused absence councilman Kramer and excused tardy join virtually by councilman Amy Holt and Stewart joined virtually by council member.

ackrason join in chambers by councilman author, joined via remote councilman Angela.

All right.

Did I miss anyone? Okay everybody. Okay, Madam clerk. Please read the disclaimer and then item number 1 into the record. For me. Please

"Olivia Bennett"

this meeting is being held pursuant to care at 61.806 and council rule 5 a red and full item. Number. 1 is our dash. 11,722.

a resolution determining certain property at 30 to 5 West Madison street. 3033, Vermont Avenue 304 8 was Mohammed Ali Boulevard, and was mom at Ali Boulevard parcel ID number 0. 0. 7 60105.

mohammed ali boulevard and was mom at ali boulevard parcel id number zero zero seven six zero one zero five

000+and not needed for a governmental purpose and authorizing its transfer read and full.

"Chair Dorsey"

Thank you. 2nd, Dorsey counseling on purpose.

"Committee Member Purvis"

Thank you Madam chair. Um.

Today, I am sponsoring a resolution to transfer the property located at 35 Madison street to the Russell place, or promise this property has been deemed surplus by community development.

And there is no government need use of purpose for it. And I do have MS Theresa is wacky. Here from Russia place to promise to give further details, thank you. You

"Chair Dorsey"

Thank you please introduce yourself for the record here and please limit comments to 2 minutes.

Uh, in totality, it just needs to be 2 minutes.

"Theresa Zawaki"

Okay, I'm standing up, let's do it at the Mike.

My name is Theresa Milwaukee. I am 1 of 2. Co leads for an initiative called Russell a place of promise we are incubated by local metro government and cities United. We receive fiscal sponsorship support as a project of the community foundation of Louisville.

I want to thank folks in the room if everybody who's here with our pop could please raise your hand. That would be very lovely.

Thank you, we have a lot of supporters today, and we also have some folks who are with us on video Cassandra web is with us, she is the other Co lead for Russell plays the promise. She runs our people based strategies in the neighborhood.

So, Russell, please, the promise is a justice based initiative. We're focused on the people in places that make Russell special and generating investments that build wealth for families in the neighborhood. Although we are currently, fiscally sponsored. We are planning to incorporate as a nonprofit by the end of 2023. thousand and twenty three

I have sent some materials in for you all to review related to this project and the interest of time I'm not going to get too deep into those right now, but I will say that we are planning to build a mixed commercial development that offers things like restaurants, retail community serving uses and more, and we are designing this project in partnership with Russell residents what that means is residents are involved with us every step of the way.

And in every aspect of the decision making process regarding the development, we are also planning to offer a community ownership model.

That allows residents to be part of the long term decision making in management structure of the development. Once it's built as well as owning shares of the development that will generate a dividend.

This is unlike any other project that's been built in Louisville, but there are models for this around the country that we've been looking at, in partnership with residents to date. We've accomplished quite a lot when it comes to developing this property. We have completed a title search. We're working on a survey.

We've received engineering support from our, we've received design, support from architects, Perkins and will you probably remember them from the waterfront Botanical Gardens and the elementary school currently being built at 17th and maple. We've also done an environmental assessment of almost all of. of

The property thanks to support from local metro governments, brown fields assessment program. We have raised the money, and we are in conversation right now about raising additional money in the form of grants, and loans. We've hosted 2 pitch sessions.

We're planning more for 2023 and folks who have pitched include and 905 sports. The jamaal brown foundation play cousin's collective garden, girl foods, global laughs, which is a hotel startup represented today by Natasha brown, and the audience, Kentucky greens and sequel sense. the audience kentucky greens and sequel sense

We are very excited that over the next few months, we'll be working with residents and our work groups to narrow the field of potential partners.

And that will very soon. We'll be able to announce the folks and the organizations and businesses that will be part of our 1st phase. Our plan is to continue working with residents on a regular basis to meet the set of milestones that's attached to the resolution that's pending. Before you today with that. I'm going to conclude my remarks and I'm going to ask Halo Washington who's standing behind me to offer about 30 seconds worth of commentary hold us to it. Thank you.

"Kayla Washington"

Hello, my name is Kayla Washington. I was a resident work group member this past summer. I've really been overjoyed to be involved in this cooperative learning process. We've taken trips to recently. We came back from Baltimore to look at affordable housing models and rpoc has been really great about teaching the residents about what this process is going to look like and what we can do in the future to continue our ownership in 30th, Madison. And I'm very excited. Because we haven't mentioned that we're restoring on Mohammed Ali, and we are very excited to be up 4 blocks walking distance. I want to take my grandkids there. there Take my kids there, and I really want to see that our pop has invested in people in places as they are currently doing. Thank you.

"Chair Dorsey"

Thank you Madam Clark who do we have in the council? Author? Do we have anyone else? No, ma'am I'm an author floor is yours? Thank you for a woman.

"Council Member Arthur"

I just want to accent a few things that we've heard for the public and for the committee members, if you look at exhibit C with the resolution, there's a certification of surplus property. From the chief of Jeff or Brian, I caught the chief just to ask more about this property, and he told me it was purchased. So that it wouldn't get into quote, non friendly hands. As 1 of the council members of the Russell neighborhood. And probably more importantly, as the only council member who lives in Russell. I can honestly say there are no friendly your hands. In the hands of Russell place, a promise. I've personally witnessed them working with residents, businesses, government everyone in between to better our neighborhood. And this project is a shining example of that. The chief made it clear that Metro government has no need for this property, but I just want to make it clear for committee members and for the full Council, watching this on playback. Russell neighborhood has for this property in 2017 the vision Russell transformation plan. Was released, and in my opinion is the most monumental neighborhood plan in our city's history.

Over 600 residents, help make it at almost a 100 community meetings over the course of a couple of years.

And that plan have 5 priorities, improve educational outcomes for children.

Improve health and safety creates strong retail service centers, expanding economic opportunity for all increase availability of high quality mics, income housing, and improved community connectivity. All of these priorities are addressed.

By the potential tenants that the Russell place of promise has already been working with on this project. And to date you just heard.

Some of the institutions that have made pitches directly to residents. Every single 1 of those institutions are providing services and resources.

That our neighborhood wants and needs.

When you talk about the civil rights era in Louisville.

You can't even think about it without thinking about the historic Russell neighborhood.

A place for residents like Albert organize with other residents, not only in Louisville, but also national figures.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who came to Russel to work with us to organize around fair housing and other civil rights.

What better way to honor that past.

Then to let the people of Russell choose their own future.

Russell place a promise I'm so proud of you because you're not doing something to residents. You're not doing something for residents. You're doing something with residents.

And with your yes vote for this resolution.

You're doing something with residents as well. Thank you so much. A woman.

"Chair Dorsey"

Thank you got some other the best thing I heard you say is doing it with the people. That's the best thing we can do as government. Madame Clark please know, for the record counsel when Mulvihill has joined us council and Donna purpose.

"Committee Member Purvis"

I just wanted to go on record and acknowledge that councilman Arthur would also be a sponsor on this resolution.

So did you thank you.

"Committee Member Mulvihill"

Constantly, Pamela you, thank you, Madam chair and, uh, this is an exciting project. I do.

Fully supported, I just had 1 quick question and I think it's for probably Teresa.

I think maybe we talked about this offline, but I wanted to make sure on these parcels that are coming to.

This to help, you know, formulate and sort of.

Make this project come to fruition.

Um, Metro was unfortunately in the past has had projects that didn't come to fruition. And is there an agreement? Or will there be an agreement of unfortunately somehow this doesn't. Fully develop as anticipated that the province will return to metro if not developed.

"Theresa Zawaki"

Yes, I can, I can speak to that. If you'd like me to yes. Councilman, we have a development agreement that is in draft form and attached to the resolution that addresses. That's very specific issue. It's also 1 of the reasons that we have that set of milestones that's attached, not only to the resolution, but to the development agreement, so that we can continue to demonstrate that we're moving this project forward in a positive and efficient manner. Um, and so that Metro government, and the council can continue to stay engaged as we meet those milestones so that we can work together. To move this project to fruition.

"Committee Member Mulvihill"

Awesome. Thank you. I know that that's not always been the case and so I'm glad that's in there. Thank you very much. Thank you.

"Chair Dorsey"

Thank you Madam park. Is there anyone else in the queue? No, ma'am. All right, so just for, no, councilman Kramer has also joined us in person. This is an item Dean for surplus. There is a draft development agreement. There is a call back clause, say that 10 times this is a resolution if there are no other question allowing for a voice vote, all those in favor please signify by saying, aye aye all those opposed. Madame collect the resolution passes, please move this item to consent. Thank you. Madam clerk please re, item number 2 enter the record for me.

"Olivia Bennett"

Please item number 2 is dash 20,922 an ordinance amending chapter 37 of the local Jefferson County, Metro code of ordinances to support businesses which hire persons are convicted of a crime by requiring a good faith effort to increase procurement from those 2nd chance businesses written full

"Chair Dorsey"

motion to approve 2nd,
Dorsey item has been motion and 2nd, I do know, I saw someone from the human relations Commission, but I think. human relations commission but i think
Renee was not here I have to speak. Oh, golly. Are you speaking directly?
Michael Meeks.

These announced her name for the record and please proceed and then I can address anything council members as I'm sponsor.

"Michael Meeks"

Thank you Michael makes chief equity officer. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. We just want to express the fact that we do agree with the intent of this ordinance.

We would like the opportunity to offer some modifications to it. For example.

We are looking at the issue of what would happen if a business were to hire individuals that.

I have felonies and subsequently fire them after getting the.

The benefits of the of the ordinance, we think there are things that we can do to address this. We think that that there are things that we could add to this to make it a better piece of legislation.

So, if if you see it fit, we'd like to work with you. Um.

"Chair Dorsey"

I will put for the record this has been on record for 2 weeks. So the fact that this is coming is a little bit disappointing at the last minute.

And I would like to see us handle that procedure in the same way that we would handle the same way that we do with minorities meeting those requirements. So, if there are additional amendments, please Proctor those to us.

But this has been sitting, it was held last week, and it has been sitting and committee for 2 weeks. So I do want to see those.

We do not want to hold this another week potentially. But then this would mean us changing this on the floor. So I do not like the whole legislation and I do not like, last minute amendments. Because it does not give this committee time to review those.

So, if you would submit those, to me, we can, I will agree to table it, but in the future, they will have to come before us much quicker. It's just not acceptable.

"Michael Meeks"

Yes, I understand completely.

"Chair Dorsey"

Um, that being said the way that this ordinance was drafted is to put a 5% goal into the procurement for those businesses that are requiring, or that have 10 or more of their employees as felons or class a misdemeanors.

We see most of those rows distributed in a lot of our trade, like orientation businesses around construction, electricity our electricians.

Excuse me electricity. electricity

Tree.

A lot of the areas in, which we are actually seeking more workers. And so what we're doing, especially in lieu of the infrastructure fund, coming in funding, coming in.

We wanted to look at more ways, other than just saying who should get the roles of really looking at who we should really be re, emphasizing in this community when we look at or when, when having conversations with goodwill and with some of the re, entry folks as a sponsor this the number 1.

Barrier to most folks coming out of the criminal justice system we found was number 1. they said they could not find a job.

And that seemed to be almost crazy when we look at our labor market and we're going into most restaurants or more industries.

And literally, I went into TJ Max as a sort of shopaholic and there's a big sign out front that says now hiring and I went to Burger King.

Because I have a thing for their veggie Whoppers and they weren't open because it was a shortage of folks available for labor.

And so, when we think about the opportunity as us as little Metro to set the example for this community, when it comes to putting folks who have, um.

Who have had some type of interaction with incarceration? I don't think we can even think twice about it.

Some of if you all open the ordinance, and I'm speaking as chair and also sponsor there was the 1st, whereas is almost staggering to talk about that.

Half of black men by 23 will have entered into in some form of way. The criminal justice. justice

The system, and so, when we think about half a population, I mean, I look at counsel and author, and it's 2 men in his household, you and your son, and that means 1 of you all are more likely.

There's no way that we can sit as a government, considering that that system part of that system we own and we Proctor, there's no that we can no way that we can sit silently and not go upstream when we think about the.

Sections issue the overcrowding and I think it was just even in 1 of the mayoral debates we were hearing that up to maybe a 3rd of those folks are in there because they just can't afford bail and so thinking about all of that.

Was the reason why I am a proud supporter of this if we have the opportunity? Do we have a county attorney here today?

I don't think we have 1. yes, ma'am. Paul Rutherford was on the call. Oh, yeah so Paul is here. So we don't have the opportunity to.

Paul, are you on?

"Paul Rutherford"

Yes, ma'am. I'm here.

"Chair Dorsey"

Do you have a drafted amendment amendment? Michael today? Mr. weeks. Okay so there is no drafted amended. Okay.

All right, and what is the concern.

"Michael Meeks"

Well, 1 of the things is what would prevent a, or a business to, from hiring a number of individuals with class, a misdemeanor or felonies.

And, you know, once getting a contract, and then firing them.

"Chair Dorsey"

How do you all currently handle that now with the other? Because this is a certification that requires the other.

Disabled minority, female, how is that? Handle? Currently?

If it's exchange, if ownership changes over, if it's no longer minority held, how do we currently handle that? And is that an issue that we're currently facing?

"Verna Goatley"

That would break them that'd be eligible for certification. And what we are looking at in this in this ordinance is changing the wording from being certified to a preference.

Therefore, we don't want to mandate that a company has to.

Identify these folks as employees, we want to put them in as a preference.

Oh, the executive director of the human relations commission. I apologize. This has just been a thorn with me with this certification word.

We put demands on people when we say certification, that's why we are looking at a preference being that this gives them a, how do you say a Tony.

An incentive to be able to hire these individuals and get a preference on their bid.

"Chair Dorsey"

Do we, will we change the word certification?

Because we've certified every other class would we change the entire ordinance?

"Verna Goatley"

Yes, because we don't want it to be a certification. We want it to be a preference for all businesses not just for the diverse business community.

"Chair Dorsey"

So, you're asking to actually change not just the language in regard to 2nd chance, but in regard to the entire ordinance that impacts women, veterans, et cetera,

"Verna Goatley"

everybody any business that's a different type of amendment. That's.

So, the scope of the ordinance is addressing 2nd, chance to change that from an overall certification to a preference is actually a different scope. We can address it within the ordinance, but it changes the entire scope.

That that change from going to a certification to a preference changes the entire ordinance around, um.

Um, we're adding excuse me the scope of this organism to add 2nd chance, but to change the let me go back up a level.

3rd, cause I want to give the exact name, right?

Because the ordinance is already existing.

"Verna Goatley"

Okay, now this is what we are asking HRC is requesting a language change for making this a certification for just diverse businesses to making this a preference for any business doing business with Metro.

"Chair Dorsey"

We would need to change that ordinance and then have an investigation or just make sure we understand what the impact would be. Because then that would be changing the certification for the entire ordinance. And. Including 2nd chance. So if you're interested in changing the overall ordinance regarding all HRC certifications, then we need to look at that. That's a that's.

Probably something we probably should have approached a council member before.

Because that really has nothing to do with this specifically.

This has to do with the overall protocol is what I'm saying,

"Verna Goatley"

the way that it's written and when we look at it, we look at it as putting a mandate on these businesses, rather than it being something that we incentivize the businesses.

"Chair Dorsey"

No, no, no, I get you. What I'm saying is it changes that's not specific to this.

That that sounds like that change is a broader scope in the.

Ordinance, so the way this ordinance literally is just taking the existing ordinance and adding.

2nd chance to the existing ordinance.

So, are you saying you from what I understand, you want to change the entire ordinance.

"Verna Goatley"

We don't want to put that weight on a company to make the mandate them to

"Chair Dorsey"

be certified. You want to be preference and that's that's a greater change to. So that wouldn't just impact 2nd chance.

So say, we pass this ordinance now and if we add 2nd chance to the existing ordinance.

We would then need to go back and then change the ordinates for not just 2nd chance, but all those other entities. So.
Um, like I said, this was something that this is a much bigger impact you are, and I do not like this at all

"Verna Goatley"

my apologies. But this is just came to my attention late on Friday. And then yesterday, I actually got the document and was able to go through it and start highlighting the conflicts of, you know, where we were with this.

"Chair Dorsey"

So, I don't know the, I don't know the conflicts of that you are facing with preferences versus certifications in your internal procedures. And I, my goal isn't to burden this.
If you already have it on file, but it is certainly a disservice to this community to have this at the last minute.
So, council members, I do apologize, because I think this is probably 1 of the most unprofessional things I've ever seen, but we will table this with you. all's opinion.
I would like, I have had council members who are here to go ahead and speak to this. So, the goal is, it's almost a.
Point council members I want to apologize. Council member author I want to apologize. Let's table it. Um.
We'll go back with the county attorney, understand what you all's changes are and see if we need to draft if we can add it to this ordinance or draft a completely separate ordinance that needs to be filed.
So, I don't know what I'm dealing with and so, county attorney, we will probably meet offline at some point this week to review and figure out what what their concerns are versus the impact that being said. I have a motion to table motion.
I get all those in favor.
All right all right, the item is table. The next 3 items on the agenda are being held. This meeting is adjourned.
Mm, hmm.