



**JOHN HAMILTON
MAYOR**

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

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November 9, 2019

Monroe County Board of Commissioners
Monroe County Courthouse
100 West Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47404

Dear County Commissioners,

Thank you for the invitation to discuss the convention center project during your commissioner's meeting on November 6. The city continues to agree that this project should be a partnership that benefits from both entities collaborating for an optimal outcome.

As I indicated during our discussion, a capital improvement board (CIB) is one of several promising options that could be considered to govern the next steps of the convention center project. Other options that should also be discussed include the formulation of a government-sponsored 501(c)(3) and whether a building corporation is one of the necessary steps, in addition to a CIB, for consideration.

You have also suggested that the capital improvement board, as outlined in state law, could be established by the county with board appointments allocated in a ratio of 4 to 3 with one of the governmental entities getting four appointments and the other one getting three, and with the four appointments including the non-majority party affiliation seats. We look forward to discussing options of appointments, whether to a CIB or other governing entity. The city would urge that such appointments be more reflective of the relative value of assets -- land, buildings and financing -- that would be provided to the ultimate project, which would suggest a ratio of 6 to 1 or 5 to 2 in appointments, in light of the city's majority contributions of those assets. We certainly anticipate and appreciate the importance of further discussions on these and a number of other items related to governance, that will benefit from both professional counsel and from detailed considerations from public entities.

You also presented a view at this week's meeting that the expansion of the convention center should be located east rather than north of the current building. This suggestion is contrary to the strong recommendation of the diverse and able Steering Committee that we jointly created, and

that was the result of a long series of public meetings and deliberations, informed by extensive advice from a professional team of architects and financial consultants specializing in convention design, as well as extensive public input. As owners of some of the land implicated in the expansion, you as commissioners of course have legal authority to decide whether or not to allow the recommended plan to proceed. I hope that you will come to respect the thoughtful and deliberate process we both supported to identify the most successful plan for expansion. As you have heard me say repeatedly, time is of the essence in proceeding with this project, both for financial and public reasons.

To that end, I again urge that we allow the Steering Committee to resume -- requiring only modest adjustments to the Memorandum of Understanding, if any -- and that you participate directly with that group and additional public comment to reach a conclusion about the Site Plan. Then we can let the detailed design process continue as it should, in parallel with the governance questions to be considered as described above.

Please consider this a counter proposal to your recommendations shared at the public meeting this week, offered in the hope that we can continue to move this important project forward as expeditiously as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Hamilton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and last name "Hamilton" clearly distinguishable.

John Hamilton
Mayor, City of Bloomington