



**JOHN HAMILTON
MAYOR**

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

401 N Morton St, Suite 210
Bloomington, IN 47404

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

812.349.3406
mayor@bloomington.in.gov

October 31, 2019

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your letter received today. We thought the most efficient way to proceed is to respond directly to your points, quoted in italics below:

Given the clear and overwhelming support for the creation of a Capital Improvement Board (CIB), made evident at last night's meeting of elected County and City officials, we write to invite you to attend our November 6th meeting to discuss this exciting opportunity. It is our intention to immediately begin drafting an Ordinance to create a CIB, and we wish to get your input. Because the Convention Center Expansion Project ("Project") is important to the public and the public must be included in this process and the discussions, your attendance at our next meeting, which will be broadcast by our local community television station, will ensure transparency.

The meeting of October 29 made clear that our community is supportive of expanding our convention center and is eager to move forward. It also clarified several things: 1) city funds are sufficient to fund the expansion project including a parking garage; 2) 10 of 16 public officials in attendance recommended that the two executive bodies and their staffs explore a potential CIB together; and 3) 10 of 16 attendees recommended relaunching the Steering Committee to continue its project leadership for the design phase.

We welcome commencing the discussions around a CIB immediately, whether at a public meeting as you recommend or in staff and other meetings as well, to explore the many details required. Relaunching the Steering Committee received the same "clear and overwhelming support" at the meeting on the 29th, and therefore we urge you to support that recommendation as well.

In our July 24th Memo, which is attached, we stated that a CIB could legally manage all of the phases of this Project, because of the statutory authority given to a CIB. Fortunately, this means the CIB could also, legally, manage the design phase. We raised this issue to you in July and have been ready to move forward; however, your input on the Board membership is critical. Your response to our Memo indicated support for a CIB. We are pleased that you reiterated that support last night. We hope you will commit to work out the necessary details with us by the end of November.

As you know, we responded to your July 24 memo with a full draft MOU within 10 days, which included explicit recommendations on moving forward with exploration of a CIB. (You have not replied to this draft MOU as of yet.) The governance of a future convention center is not a simple matter; we welcome cooperative discussions about options and an orderly and well informed process to move forward:

Pursuant to Indiana Code 36-10-8-4 (a) the CIB is composed of seven members. Subsection (b) states: "The county executive shall determine in the creating ordinance which units within the county shall make appointments to the board. In addition, the creating ordinance must provide that no more than four (4) of the members be affiliated with the same political party." It is our intention to create membership terms which are fair, inclusive, and upon which both the City and County agree.

If Monroe County and the City of Bloomington are the units of government who make appointments, we all must acknowledge that both Monroe County and the City of Bloomington currently are heavily Democratic. We suggest that whichever unit gets to make four appointments, also be required to appoint the three non-Democratic appointments. There may be other ways to make appointments, but we offer that as an initial suggestion. We look forward to your input on November 6th.

The potential creation of a CIB involves numerous policy and procedural considerations, including board make-up, creation of one or more legal entities, review of tax implications, financing structures and more. We look forward to discussing all of these matters expeditiously and with necessary technical advice and counsel.

Time is of the essence; therefore, we look forward to your prompt reply. If you cannot make the November 6th meeting, we meet every single Wednesday. We could meet with you on November 13th or the 20th. We promise to manage our agenda to accommodate your, or your proxy's, schedule. Please do not let this invitation linger, as this Project is too important.

We are pleased that you agree that time is of the essence, as we have been urging consistently. That is a motivating reason we believe relaunching the Steering Committee in the interim is critical (as recommended on the 29th), while discussions on a potential CIB proceed. This allows design and development of the center to proceed in parallel. We look forward to restarting the very productive and broadly representative Steering Committee, and contemporaneously working together with you on considering establishing a CIB.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you in a cooperative, inclusive, and transparent manner. In the spirit of inclusion, we are copying our Council colleagues, whose partnership is essential.

We share your enthusiasm for continued collaboration. I can adjust my schedule and be available at 10am on Wednesday, November 6th for an hour. We suggest our staffs coordinate on the work needed to prepare for any formal action. We also look forward to hearing your thoughts on the Site Plan as you chose not to comment on this issue, though the general consensus formed at the meeting on the 29th urged that it be resolved quickly. We look forward to resolving that in short order.

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

CC: Monroe County Council, City of Bloomington Common Council