

Hey Tammy,

Thanks for the e-mail. I would agree, confusion seems to be the most appropriate word for our experience so far. This has been the most confusing staff level experience to a board/council I've had professionally.

To be clear, my only expectation is clarity. My expectations have never been rooted in that the ECT board, a very qualified one I believe, must support this project. There is no need to keep qualifying that this is a decision that will need the support of the board. We do understand that. The unfortunate thing is the confusion in how you have handled and managed our request and communication dating back almost nine months has only done harm to our proposal and gives the unfair perception we are unprepared, unwilling to present something that works within the ECT's rules or guidelines or that we are defying staff suggestions to present something rigid or exact. We've merely presented based on spotty and sometimes missing information what we thought was best. We continue to do so.

We have spent the past nine months spinning our wheels and getting nowhere since the first meeting in late December. I have included below your December 28, 2022 follow up to our first-ever meeting before where when we talked about this idea in a rough sense. Because of your history in this process and hearing our ideas you discussed children's resource centers that had Trust precedent in Florida. I appreciated you sharing links with us to many examples. I was discouraged to learn you implied in the last ECT a lack of willingness to meet with us which certainly doesn't come across in your 12/28/22 email.

So here we are today, presented with seven bullet points of questions/concerns/issues that have either never been presented to us at all, or have become new information to us lately when you shared these concerns not directly with us but instead in board meetings. Shouldn't there have been research done on this resource model following our December meeting or in the weeks following, not now? No meeting nor e-mail I received from you until yesterday outlined any of this, which I believe proves the point here. Why are we proposed these concerns now and not before? I believe the city, our partners and our city staff deserve more respect for their time than to chase our tail, have our project lauded in e-mail, then questioned for the first time in a public meeting with facts misrepresented all while injuring the application's reputation because of all this confusion.

Maybe it's just me, but in every other similar experience, most recently Triumph, it took us no more meetings than we have had with you for the Triumph staff to do exactly what I believe they are hired to do: Give an objective assessment of the merits or weaknesses of our project, share their concerns based on their expertise and guide an applicant to a scenario of which 1) A project is presented that the staff can support as a quality one OR 2) We make the decision that it is not suitable for a Triumph ask.

If the water is under the bridge here as it seems, I'll address those seven bullets with this stance that has remained for nine months: We are committed to any way to make this work. We – City, County, Community Health, Lakeview. Whoever needs to own the building, including ECT as I've conveyed to you numerous times, is OK with us. We do have new programming that would come there and we have a litany of options of which to provide this. In addition, the initial discussions included that ECT offices would move there and would be able to leverage the facilities to meet needs of additional ECT grant awardees who may need a place to implement their programming.

What should matter most of all is that there are close to 2,000 children in a predominantly underserved community within close reach of this building. If there's a way for this to get to a vote that is compliant with all rules and standards, we are for it. If the city had to have nothing to do with it, as I told you in yet another public learning session/committee meeting, I support this project led by ANY reputable partner fully. We just would like to learn the rules and count on real guidance from you and staff, not learn about your opinion in meetings. I don't think that is an unfair ask.

I have included your e-mail to myself, Commissioner May, Council President Wiggins, Ms. Smiley and others from **December 28, 2022**.

Thanks for your commitment to our county's children.

Sincerely,

-D.C.