

Minutes of the Virtual Regular Board Meeting of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh.

June 9, 2022 – 2:00 P.M., E.S.T.

Members Present: Chintalapalli, Powell, Williamson, Innamorato, Lavelle

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Flisram, Persson, Geiger, Fewes, Thomas, Saladna, Grantham, Clark, Bohince, and Schacht

Mr. Chintalapalli called the Regular Meeting to order and declared a quorum present.

1. Roll Call
2. General
 - a. Approval of the May 12, 2022, Regular URA Board Meeting Minutes.
3. Announcements
 - a. Mr. Chintalapalli announced that Executive Sessions were held on June 3, 2022, regarding the June 2022, Board meeting agenda, June 6, 2022, and June 9, 2022, regarding legal and personnel matters.
4. Public Comment – See attached
5. Centre Avenue – Former Letsche Elementary School Building
 - a. Authorization to enter into a Rental Gap Program loan agreement with the borrower, Letsche LLC, in the amount of up to \$953,650 for the rehabilitation of the former Letsche Elementary School and the new construction of four (4) townhomes.
 - b. Proposal and form of contract for the sale of Block 9-R, Lots 163, 164, 165, & 166 in the 3rd Ward to Letsche LLC, or a related entity, for \$30,000 plus costs.

Mr. Flisram requested Board approval of the above items.

Mr. Niklas Persson, Lending Analyst presented that authorization is requested to enter into a Rental Gap Program (RGP) loan agreement with the borrower, Letsche LLC, in the amount of up to \$953,650 for the rehabilitation of the former Letsche Elementary School and the new construction of four (4) townhomes, and to accept a proposal and form of contract for the sale of Block 9-R, Lots 163, 164, 165, & 166 in the 3rd Ward to Letsche LLC., or a related entity, for \$30,000 plus costs.

The Letsche School project, named after the former Letsche Elementary School in the Hill District's Crawford-Roberts neighborhood, is a redevelopment project that repurposes the former Letsche School site that has been vacant for approximately 15 years, as well as five (5) additional vacant parcels into housing, an urban garden, and a tot lot playground area. Due to the school's historical value, the developer, Beacon Communities Services, is to redevelop the building into a 42-unit mixed-income

apartment building with accompanying community space as well as the construction of four (4) new townhomes on the adjacent vacant parcels.

Thirty-four (34) of these units will have rents set at affordable rates; 10 units will be for tenants with incomes at or below 60% Area Median Income (AMI), 19 units will be for tenants with incomes at or below 50% AMI, and five (5) units will be for tenants with incomes at or below 20% AMI. The remaining eight (8) units will be market-rate. The empty plot of land adjacent to the school will be transformed into the urban garden and tot lot. In addition to these units, the developer intends to construct four (4) new townhomes on an empty plot of land that sits opposite the school, facing Cliff Street. All townhomes will have rents set at affordable rates.

The project has received an award in the amount of \$1,250,000 in 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) from Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA), which will generate an anticipated LIHTC Equity amount of \$11,871,438. Federal Historic Tax Credits are also being sought and are expected to generate \$2,387,868. First mortgage financing is being sought through PHFA in the amount of \$1,062,512. Gap financing in the amount of \$2,250,000 and Project Based Voucher assistance for 25 units have also been requested under a Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP) Request for Proposals (RFP) submitted on April 26, 2022.

The developer has approached the URA requesting additional gap financing through the RGP. This would be a 3rd Mortgage Loan in the amount of \$953,650 repaid based on agreed upon percentage of project cash flow.

The project is scheduled to close in the 4th quarter of 2022 with construction to start immediately. The construction period is 14 months and scheduled to be completed during the 4th quarter of 2023.

Development Sources

Sources of Funds	
Permanent Financing – PHFA 1 st Lien	\$1,062,512
Equity (LIHTC)	\$11,871,438
Equity (HTC)	\$2,387,868
Deferred Development Fee	\$433,247
HACP Amortizing Loan – 2 nd Lien	\$850,000
HACP Cash Flow Loan – 4 th Lien	\$1,400,000
RGP Amortizing Loan (Pending) – 3 rd Lien	\$350,000
RGP Cash Flow Loan (Pending) – 5 th Lien	\$603,650
Total Project Financing	\$18,958,715

Uses of Funds	
Acquisition	\$993,225
Hard Costs	\$13,592,099
Fees	\$1,022,640
Miscellaneous Development Expenses	\$246,500
Construction & Permanent Loan Financing Charges	\$630,705
Reserves	\$576,707
Developer Fee	\$1,500,000
Syndication Fee and Expenses	\$396,839

Total Project Uses	\$18,958,715
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Mr. Michael Polite, Executive Vice President of Beacon Communities LLC, was present. Mr. Polite stated that this project is on schedule to close by the fourth quarter. Mr. Polite thanked the Board for their consideration.

Upon a motion to approve by Mr. Lavelle seconded by Ms. Powell, and unanimously carried, the following resolutions were adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 118 (2022)

RESOLVED: That a loan with Letsche LLC for the rehabilitation of the former Letsche Elementary School and the new construction of four townhomes, for an amount of up to \$953,650, payable from the Housing Opportunity Fund Rental Gap Program is hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute a loan agreement and related documents therefor, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

RESOLUTION NO. 119 (2022)

RESOLVED: That the Redevelopment Proposal submitted by Letsche LLC, or a related entity, for the sale of Block 9-R, Lots 163, 164, 165, & 166 in the 3rd Ward, for \$30,000, and execution of a disposition contract by sale to Letsche LLC, or a related entity, are hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute said disposition contract and related documents to effectuate said sale, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

6. Centre Avenue - Herron & Wylie (Communion Place)

- a. Proposal and form of contract for the sale of Block 27-A, Lots 125 and 126, in the 5th Ward to Communion LLC, or a related entity, for \$14,500 plus costs.

Mr. Flisram requested Board approval of the above item.

Ms. Maya Fewes, Project Manager, Project & Asset Management Unit presented that authorization is requested to accept the Redevelopment Proposal and enter into a disposition contract with Communion LLC, or a related entity, for their Centre Avenue Development "Herron & Wylie." Communion's Centre Avenue Request for Qualifications (RFQ) response includes two (2) parcels that are located on the property fronting the intersection of Herron and Wylie Avenues. One (1) parcel is vacant land, and one (1) parcel contains a vacant structure that will be rehabilitated. Combined, the parcels are approximately 2,465 square feet.

In July 2019, the URA released an RFQ seeking multiple developers to purchase and redevelop any portion of 170 publicly owned parcels along the Centre Avenue Corridor in the Middle Hill neighborhood. The goal of the RFQ was to select developers to work to implement uses and further

concepts articulated by the community as described in the 2015 Centre Avenue Corridor Redevelopment and Design Plan and the 2011 Greater Hill District Master Plan. Central to the plan are the following priorities:

- Creating opportunities for minority and local developers
- Revitalizing Centre Avenue as the neighborhood's primary retail, institutional, and cultural node as well as a strong residential neighborhood
- Building upon the African American cultural legacy
- Creating family-friendly housing without displacement
- Fostering economic empowerment
- Producing comprehensive sustainability and quality design.

At its February 2020 Regular Board Meeting, the URA authorized a period of Exclusive Negotiations for Communion LLC's project Herron & Wylie. The Herron & Wylie redevelopment includes the construction of a 2,803 square foot building and the rehabilitation of an existing three-story structure that, upon completion, will include three (3) first floor offices and collaborative space. Communion, LLC will serve as the offices' anchor tenant, with the remaining office space rented out at an affordable commercial rent rate. Above, a residential area will include six (6) one-bedroom units of 550-750 square feet each, and two (2) two-bedroom units of 900 square feet each. Of the eight (8) total units, at least 50% of the units will be affordable to tenants at 60%-80% AMI. Total development costs are estimated at \$3,106,186.

The MWBE Program Officer has received and reviewed an MWBE narrative for this project.

Prior to the sale of this property, the proposed development will again be presented to the URA Board for approval of final working drawings and evidence of financing and for authorization to execute the deed. Further, such final approvals will not include authorization to begin construction or authorization to begin construction on infrastructure improvements unless designs have been sufficiently vetted with community stakeholders and URA staff.

In partnership with Council District 6, the URA held a community meeting on November 14, 2020, to present the Centre Avenue Round 1 RFQ proposals for community input. Community stakeholders scored each project presented, on:

- The project's concept
- Community benefit
- Alignment with the Greater Hill District Master Plan and the Centre Avenue Corridor Design Plan.

Lakeisha Byrd presented her proposal during the community meeting and received an approval score of 100% for the project concept. Responses received from the community highlighted the importance of a live-work space and the potential for future development on Herron Ave.

Communion LLC is a limited liability company with a mailing address of 2144 Wylie Avenue, Fl 3, Pittsburgh, PA 15219. Lakeisha Byrd is the Owner.

Lakeisha Byrd, Owner, of Communion LLC, was present. Ms. Byrd gave an update on the status of this project.

Upon a motion to approve by Mr. Lavelle seconded by Mr. Williamson, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 120 (2022)

RESOLVED: That the Redevelopment Proposal submitted by Communion LLC, or a related entity, for the sale of Block 27-A, Lots 125 and 126, in the 5th Ward, for \$14,500, and execution of a disposition contract by sale to Communion LLC, or a related entity, are hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute said disposition contract and related documents to effectuate said sale, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

7. Larimer – Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh
 - a. Revised proposal and authorization to amend and restate the disposition contract with the Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School for the sale of Block 125-B, Lot 116-1, in the 12th Ward for \$1.00 plus costs.

Mr. Flisram requested Board approval of the above item.

Ms. Donita Thomas, Project Manager, presented that authorization is requested to approve the revised proposal package and amend the disposition contract for the sale of Block 125-B, Lot 116-1, in the 12th Ward to Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School (“Urban Academy”) for \$1.00 plus costs. This City-owned parcel is in the process of being transferred to the URA, and eventual conveyance to Urban Academy will be contingent on successful completion of that transfer. Located at the northeast corner of Meadow Street and Xenia Way, the parcel contains approximately 11,291 square feet.

Background

URA Board Resolution 365 (December 10, 2020) authorized acceptance of the redevelopment proposal package and execution of a disposition contract for sale of the parcel for Urban Academy to expand its footprint by creating a green space to enrich academic, social, and emotional learning opportunities for its students and as an attractive, nurturing space for the Larimer community. The campus green was planned to include the property that is the subject of this authorization along with an adjoining 5,303-square-foot parcel at the northwest corner of Meadow and Turrett Streets that Urban Academy is acquiring directly from the City.

Realizing that the new development would eliminate much needed off-street parking for faculty and visitors, Urban Academy would like to amend the design to include portions of an adjacent parking lot to increase off- street parking which is currently very difficult to find in the community. The amended design would offer approximately 6,634 square feet of parking space and approximately 8,874 square feet of greenspace.

Total project costs are budgeted at approximately \$500,000 to be funded entirely by redeveloper equity.

Authorization is contingent on approval of MWBE and MWI Narratives for this project by the MWBE Program Officer.

Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School is a Pennsylvania nonprofit organization with a mailing address at 437 Turrett Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15206. K. Chase Patterson is Chief Executive Officer.

Upon a motion to approve by Mr. Lavelle seconded by Ms. Powell, and unanimously carried, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLUTION NO. 121 (2022)

RESOLVED: That the amended Redevelopment Proposal submitted by Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School for Block 125-B, Lot 116-1, in the 12th Ward, and execution of a restated disposition contract by sale to Urban Academy of Greater Pittsburgh Charter School for \$1.00 plus costs, are hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute said disposition contract, and related documents to effectuate said sale, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

DISCLOSURES AGENDA

The Members reviewed the items on the Disclosures Agenda upon motion made by Mr. Lavelle, seconded by Mr. Williamson, and unanimously carried, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. Authorization to provide an internal bridge loan to the URA up to \$500,000 for the completion of Station Euclid -Penn Circle project, with funding sourced from the Pittsburgh Development Fund and/or Commercial Loan Repayment Account (CLRA), and with repayment sourced from ELTRIDRA cash flow repayments to URA pooled investment loan.

RESOLUTION NO. 122 (2022)

RESOLVED: That a loan to the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh (URA) for the completion of Station Euclid -Penn Circle project, for an amount of up to \$500,000 payable from the Pittsburgh Development Fund and/or Commercial Loan Repayment Account (CLRA), and with repayment sourced from ELTRIDRA cash flow repayments to URA pooled investment loan is hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute a loan agreement and related documents therefor, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

2. Authorization to approve Rae Ann Driscoll, a URA Employee, to receive a Down Payment Closing Cost Assistance Deferred Loan.

RESOLUTION NO. 123 (2022)

RESOLVED That a Down Payment Closing Cost Assistance Deferred Loan to Rae Ann Driscoll, an employee of the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh is hereby approved.

3. Authorization for a Driveway easement agreement in favor of Cynthia Ann and Richard M. Henderson (owners of 264 Glass Run Road, Block 92-H, Lot 120, in the 31st Ward [Hays]) for Block 31-G, Lot 200, in the 31st Ward.

RESOLUTION NO. 124 (2022)

RESOLVED: That a Driveway easement agreement with Cynthia Ann and Richard M. Henderson for Block 31-G, Lot 200, in the 31st Ward is hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer, and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute an agreement therefor, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

4. Amendment of Resolution 41 (2022), authorizing the Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh to apply for funding from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Statewide Local Share Account program on behalf of the nonprofit project leads, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000,000 per project. Resolution 41 (2022) is hereby amended to identify the nonprofit subgrantee leads and project-specific request amounts:

- i. Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard - \$500,000

RESOLUTION NO. 125 (2022)

RESOLVED: That Resolution No. 41 (2022), is hereby amended to identify Veterans Place of Washington Boulevard as the nonprofit subgrantee and project-specific requested amount of \$500,000 from the Department of Community and Economic Development (DCED) Statewide Local Share Account program.

5. East Hills - Prestigious Hills
 - a. Authorization to amend Resolutions 261 (2021) and 33 (2022) to change appointed bond counsel from Clark Hill PLC to Denton Cohen & Grigsby, P.C. with respect to the issuance of the bonds
 - b. Authorization to amend Resolution 261 (2021) and 33 (2022) to permit the issuance of the Bonds for Prestigious Hills (f/k/a Second East Hills) in either a public offering or a private placement with one or more financial institutions.

RESOLUTION NO. 126 (2022)

RESOLVED: That Resolution Nos. 261 (2021) and 33 (2022) are hereby amended, to change the appointed bond counsel from Clark Hill PLC to Denton Cohen & Grigsby, P.C. with respect to the issuance of the bonds.

RESOLUTION NO. 127 (2022)

RESOLVED: That Resolution No. 261 (2021) and Resolution No. 33 (2022) are hereby amended, to permit the issuance of the Bonds for Prestigious Hills (f/k/a Second East Hills) in either a public offering or a private placement with one or more financial institutions.

6. Bluff – 23 Miltenberger Mixed-Use Redevelopment

- a. Authorization to extend exclusive negotiations with Epic Development, LLC, for the sale of the following publicly owned properties, for a period of six (6) months:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Current Owner</u>
1	11-J-95	0 Forbes Avenue	URA
1	11-J-96	23 Miltenberger Street	URA
1	11-J-101	0 Forbes Avenue	URA

RESOLUTION NO. 128 (2022)

RESOLVED: That extension of exclusive negotiations with Epic Development, LLC for the sale of the following properties, for a period of six (6) months is hereby approved:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>Block/Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Current Owner</u>
1	11-J-95	0 Forbes Avenue	URA
1	11-J-96	23 Miltenberger Street	URA
1	11-J-101	0 Forbes Avenue	URA

7. Ratification of Certificate of Completion for Manchester Row House Renaissance, LLC, for Block 22-K, Lots 34, 38, 39, and 136; and Block 22-L, Lots 289 and 298-B, in the 21st Ward (residential rehab – Lake Street, Fulton Street, Rush Street, and Warlo Street).

RESOLUTION NO. 129 (2022)

RESOLVED: That issuance of a Certificate of Completion to Manchester Row House Renaissance, LLC for Block 22-K, Lots 34, 38, 39, and 136; and Block 22-L, Lots 289 and 298-B, in the 21st Ward, and return of the Good Faith Deposit(residential rehab – Lake Street, Fulton Street, Rush Street, and Warlo Street)are hereby ratified and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer, and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute a Certificate of Completion therefor, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

8. Certificate of Completion for Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation for Block 27-B, Lot 72 (subsequently consolidated into the parcel now known as Block 27-B, Lot 74), in the 5th Ward (residential side yard – 800 Bryn Mawr Road).

RESOLUTION NO. 130 (2022)

RESOLVED: That issuance of a Certificate of Completion to Pittsburgh Housing Development Corporation, for Block 27-B, Lot 72 (subsequently consolidated into the parcel now known as Block 27-B, Lot 74), in the 5th Ward, and return of the Good Faith Deposit (residential side yard – 800 Bryn Mawr Road). are hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer, and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute a Certificate of Completion therefor, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

9. Authorization of the appointment of Kyle Chintalapalli, Chief Economic Development Officer, City of Pittsburgh, and Damara Carter, Controller, URA, to the Pittsburgh Urban Initiatives Governing Board for a three-year term.

RESOLUTION NO. 131 (2022)

RESOLVED: That appointment of Kyle Chintalapalli, Chief Economic Development Officer, City of Pittsburgh, and Damara Carter, Controller, URA, to the Pittsburgh Urban Initiatives Governing Board for a three-year term is hereby approved.

10. Proposal, form of contract, final drawings, final evidence of financing, and authorization to execute a deed to Katie Holler for the sale of Block 50-F, Lot 148, in the 10th Ward for \$11,200 plus costs (Rosetta Street – side yard sale).

RESOLUTION NO.132 (2022)

RESOLVED: That the Redevelopment Proposal submitted by Katie Holler, for the sale of Block 50-F, Lot 148, in the 10th Ward, and execution of a disposition contract by sale to Katie Holler, for \$11,200 plus costs are hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer, and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute said disposition contract and related documents to effectuate said sale, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto; and it is

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the final drawings and evidence of financing submitted by Katie Holler for the sale of Block 50-F, Lot 148, in the 10th Ward, are hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer, and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute a deed and all documents necessary to effectuate the sale thereof, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

11. Proposal and form of contract for the sale of Block 175-C, Lot 308, in the 13th Ward to One Call Handles It All Landscaping and Trucking LLC for \$2,000 plus costs (Hale Street playground – Homewood).

RESOLUTION NO. 133 (2022)

RESOLVED: That the Redevelopment Proposal submitted by One Call Handles It All Landscaping and Trucking LLC, for the sale of Block 175-C, Lot 308, in the 13th Ward, for \$2,000 plus costs, and execution of a disposition contract by sale to One Call Handles It All Landscaping and Trucking LLC, are hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is hereby authorized to execute said disposition contract and related documents to effectuate said sale, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

12. Rescission of Resolution 433 (2020) - Conveyance, for consideration of \$1.00, of Lot 6 in the H. J. Heinz Company Plan (Block 24-H, Lot 138, in the 24th Ward) to Jeff C. Kumer pursuant to the exercise of his November 12, 2001, option to purchase.

RESOLUTION NO. 134 (2022)

RESOLVED: That Resolution No. 433 (2020) for Conveyance, for consideration of \$1.00, of Lot 6 in the H. J. Heinz Company Plan (Block 24-H, Lot 138, in the 24th Ward) to Jeff C. Kumer pursuant to the exercise of his November 12, 2001, option to purchase is hereby rescinded.

13. Conveyance, for consideration of \$1.00, of Lot 6 in the H. J. Heinz Company Plan (Block 24-H, Lot 138, in the 24th Ward) to 1800 River Parcel, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, pursuant to the exercise of November 12, 2001, option to purchase.

RESOLUTION NO. 135 (2022)

RESOLVED: That an Option agreement with 1800 River Parcel, LLC, for the conveyance of Lot 6 in the H. J. Heinz Company Plan (Block 24-H, Lot 138, in the 24th Ward), is hereby approved, and the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Director, Chief Strategy Officer, Chief Lending & Solutions Officer and/or the Chief Financial Officer, on behalf of the Authority, is authorized to execute an agreement therefor, and the Secretary or Assistant Secretary is authorized to attest the same and affix the seal of the Authority thereto.

There being no further actions to come before the Members, the Meeting was adjourned.

DocuSigned by:
Theresa Schacht
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Assistant Secretary



Public Comment: June 9, 2022 Board Meeting

LIVE Comment Registrants:

Name: William Parker

Topic: URA Ventures

[Mr. Parker did not show]

Name: Rico Delorean Rucker Sr.

Topic: Request for the RFI Greater Pittsburgh ColiseumBuyBackTheBlockMovement

Written Comment:

Name: Rico Delorean Rucker Sr.

Comment: My Name is Rico Delorean Rucker Sr. Im the creator of the Buy Back The Block Movement www.buybacktheblockmovement.com is more than just Roller skating – this is a community endeavor purposed for connecting all generations and cultures across the area, Promoting Unity in all Communities through Anti-Violence Events & Safe Spaces. Our group is preparing to become part of the healing process in the city of Pittsburgh by providing opportunities for healthy living, mental stress relief and community building. The time is now to implore solutions to situations that have plagued our communities for too long.

My team has shown their passion and commitment to the community by coordinating events which are supported by a diverse group of people. This includes community members, public safety officials as well as small business owners. The activities are uplifting and creates an environment that welcomes hours of positive engagement. Again, this type of environment is the part of the solution that is needed in the city of Pittsburgh and surrounding areas.

The Overall need for a Roller Skating Rink in our Community is very important, The Historic Greater Pittsburgh Coliseum was once a skating rink and Event Hall, that facility had the power to change our culture as it united every community throughout the city of Pittsburgh. Reactivating the Greater Pittsburgh Coliseum empowers the people to reconnect with our

culture. Similar to the character in Roll Bounce The Buy The Block Back Team is committed to building the confidence of new and old skaters in order to showcase the historical art of roller skating and there own creativity.

According to [Niche.com](https://www.niche.com) , A website that grades & Reviews local neighborhoods, “The neighborhood (HOMEWOOD) needs guidance, and reform. There are many lost youth there that feel like they have no better options for their future. that's far from the truth. Success is minimal for the people who grow up there in the recent years. Most of the people I grew up with are either deceased or in jail.”

Lets change the narrative about Homewood by joining with the buy the block back movement to revive the community's decade old dream to open the doors of the coliseum as a safe space that promotes Anti-Violence & unity.
