



City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Office of the Mayor

Cleveland City Hall

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August 1, 2024

Dear Jimmy and Dee,

Over the past 18 months, we have worked earnestly with you to support your vision for a world-class home for the Cleveland Browns. We value our partnership with the Browns and have put forth our best efforts to find a mutually beneficial, responsible deal that keeps the team in Cleveland, protects the public's investment, and supports your plans to transform the current facility.

The City of Cleveland is unequivocally committed to a competitive lease arrangement on the lakefront for the next 30 years—one that is fair to both our residents and the Browns. Our deal is designed to provide the team with a dramatically upgraded facility that will serve both the Browns and Greater Cleveland for decades to come. Importantly, our package does not tap into the team's revenue sources while ensuring that the City's budget is fully protected.

We found the plans you presented to us for a state-of-the-art modernization of the lakefront facility exciting and transformative, marking a new era for the team and Cleveland. There is something very special happening in Downtown Cleveland with the shore-to-core-to-shore vision, and we are eager to have you as a part of this transformation.

The Browns' presence at its current site is crucial to many downtown businesses and jobs. The Browns leaving Cleveland would be detrimental to businesses within Cleveland and throughout Cuyahoga County, and the magnitude of the project would cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars more when our region has so many other critical needs. A strong Cleveland is a strong Northeast Ohio.

I am confident that Clevelanders and Browns backers will rally around the lakefront stadium. We are unified in our belief that transforming the current facility is unquestionably in the best interests of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County. We do not believe any public financial support should responsibly be made available for development of a stadium outside of the City of Cleveland.

What's more, the City and the County have consistently supported the Browns through the excise tax, its extensions, and continuous improvements in the stadium. This community has been very hospitable over the years in meeting the team's needs, and our community has celebrated the opportunity to do so. We look forward to cementing the team's future here at home in the City of Cleveland.

The stadium is more than just a venue. It's tailgating at the Muni Lot. It's celebrating on West 6th. It's lake effect snow drifting over the field—toe-warmers and three sweaters on the bone-rattling wind-chill days off the lake. It's bleeding brown and orange every week, and the unconditional fandom that is the backbone of this community's identity and pride. We hope you choose to continue with the success we are experiencing on our waterfronts—preservation over new construction—and support Cleveland and Cuyahoga County's best interests.

We are confident that this package that will ensure that the Browns remain on the lakefront with their hometown's full support. You are essential to the fabric of this community. We appreciate your consideration of our offer. We respectfully request a response by August 12, 2024.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to your response.

Respectfully submitted,

Sincerely,



Justin M. Bibb
Mayor | City of Cleveland