



May 21, 2025

Greater Cleveland Partnership
1240 Huron Rd E #300
Cleveland, OH 44115

Leadership of the Greater Cleveland Partnership:

The decision of the Executive Committee of the Greater Cleveland Partnership (GCP) to endorse the Brook Park stadium proposal is an affront to any partnership we have had together. It has become apparent that GCP does not value its relationship with local leaders and is not acting in the best interests of the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, or Northeast Ohio.

Effective immediately, the City and County will withdraw participation in Greater Cleveland Partnership's Civic Vision, City Development Committee, and Air Services Task Force meetings.

It is unclear whose interests GCP represents – but it is clear you do not represent the business owners in downtown Cleveland that stand to lose millions of dollars in revenue or the business owners across Cuyahoga County who would have to compete against a new publicly subsidized entertainment district in Brook Park. It does not represent the City of Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, or the countless private businesses that have invested billions of dollars into a strong urban core for our region. As elected leaders in this community we must advocate for the business leaders that we collaborate with every day that work with us, in partnership, for the betterment of our community.

There is no win-win for the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County if the Browns move to Brook Park, and no amount of money can account for the irreversible damage caused by the construction of an unneeded entertainment district that competes with downtown and suburban entertainment districts, strains the state's finances, and drains tax revenue and visitors away from the economic center of our region.

The focus of the GCP Executive Committee seems detached from local issues and their actions not only fail to address the needs and concerns of the region but run counter to GCP's stated goals of strengthening downtown, the lakefront, Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, and the business climate of Northeast Ohio. The City and County are eager to continue engaging with the business community, but engagement with the Greater

Cleveland Partnership is no longer a proper proxy for those business relationships. The City and County seek to work with partners who advocate for sound public policy and strong local collaboration. The actions of the GCP Executive Committee have shown GCP is not that partner.

Haslam Sports Group has become desperate to show any local support for a project that is wildly unpopular in Northeast Ohio. The GCP Executive Committee took the bait with a private vote of members whose attendance and vote count have not been made public.

We expect more thoughtful, fact-based advocacy from those who speak on behalf of our regional economy. Moving the Brown's Stadium to Brook Park is bad for Cleveland and bad for Cuyahoga County. It relies on an unprecedented amount of public funding to relocate economic activity from Downtown to Brook Park, for the benefit of Haslam Sports Group (HSG). To ignore the independent analysis of the Ohio Legislative Service Commission and State's Office of Budget and Management means you are willing to disregard our community's best interests at the whims of a single entity: HSG.

This effort reflects poorly on GCP leadership, the Executive Committee, and the board. We encourage the members of the board to closely examine this decision, made by a select few on the Executive Committee, and share publicly the concerns you have privately shared with us. Until GCP re-evaluates its position, GCP is in a deep deficit of trust from local leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Ronayne".

Chris Ronayne

Executive
Cuyahoga County

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Justin M. Bibb".

Justin M. Bibb

Mayor
City of Cleveland