



County Executive Chris Ronayne
Cuyahoga County
2079 E 9th St.
Cleveland, OH 44115

May 15, 2025

County Executive Ronayne,

We have made every effort to work with you to find a unified vision for a long-term stadium solution that will be transformative for our City, County and State. We have worked methodically to find the most responsible solve for our region that is based on facts. I am sending this letter to clearly articulate those so you do not continue to communicate misleading information. After comprehensively evaluating every option over the last eight years, these facts are evident:

- Renovating the stadium and putting more than \$1 billion into a short-term fix that would present the same dilemma 15 to 20 years from now is neither a strategic nor a fiscally responsible long-term approach.
- The City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County have failed to put forth a viable economic solution to renovate the stadium, including the glaring omission of a solve for capital repairs and an over-reliance on dollars from the City's general fund.
- The County is suffering economic hardships, including overruns with the County Jail that you are moving from downtown to Garfield Heights. In this context, the County should be enabling projects that generate County revenues, and the Brook Park project will generate millions annually for the County.
- The Brook Park funding model does not rely on any funding from the City of Cleveland, yet the City will benefit from the significant activity and year-round use of a world-class dome in the region that is only 15 minutes from downtown.
- The primary ask of the County is to maximize Brook Park revenues by leveraging the County's credit and issuing bonds that will be paid back through new revenues generated from the project.
- If the County would participate in a collaborative Brook Park stadium solution, they would be part of the process to determine the best use of the hundreds of millions in excess project tax revenues that could be shared with the City of Cleveland and other County needs.
- The year-round dome stadium activity and the many additional events in Brook Park will generate a much greater economic impact for both the County and downtown than an open-air stadium in Cleveland that is used just 10-12 times a year. The Brook Park project will be additive to, rather than destructive of, downtown.
- Haslam Sports Group is investing at least \$1.2 billion in private funding in the Brook Park stadium (plus any cost overruns) and another \$800 million+ in private investment together with its partners into the adjacent mixed-use development.
- The Governor and other State leaders have expressed their support for the transformative Brook Park project, which would be one of the largest economic development projects in the history of Northeast Ohio.
- Our ask of the State is to leverage the substantial new incremental tax revenues generated by the project to produce a return for the Ohio taxpayers – unlike a short-sighted renovation plan, the State investment is not a "risky bet" for taxpayers.

It is truly disheartening to see you, as County Executive, actively work against a potential \$600 million investment from the State that would be paired with \$2 billion+ in private investment for an unprecedented \$3 billion+ economic development project centrally located in Cuyahoga County. These are the types of inexplicable decisions that keep the Greater Cleveland region from thriving, while other regions like Columbus and Cincinnati continue to grow and evolve.

With any opportunity of this magnitude, it is critical to make decisions based on facts, not emotion, nostalgia or politics. A renovation is a short-term solution that only kicks the can down the road, does not create substantial economic development and impedes lakefront transformation that this region and its residents deserve.

To further clear up misinformation, while we have not given up on our elusive goal of local unity, and the upside for the public is far greater with the County's partnership, we remain undeterred and are not relying on the County's participation to execute this project.

Haslam Sports Group is heavily invested in the future of Northeast Ohio. We believe that a reimagined lakefront, a modernized airport, and an enclosed stadium and mixed-use development in Brook Park will transform the region, and we remain available to discuss ways to collaborate on wins for all.

Regards,

Dave Jenkins

Dave Jenkins

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