



Character lives on.

German Village Society
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November 28, 2017

Dear Mr. Clarke,

I write to you on behalf of the Board of Trustees for German Village Society. We are disappointed not to be at the top of the Ginther Administration's priority project list as we contemplate the Third Street corridor, but we understand the complex needs of our growing city.

I've had a chance to update our Board on the meeting at City Hall on October 25. The consensus is that German Village Society will not spend significant staff or volunteer resources pursuing the project for at least the next 18 months.

The Third Street infrastructure, safety and enhancement project is so important for the vitality of Columbus both in quality-of-life terms as well as an economic driver, but there is also SO MUCH activity planned there in a 3- to 7-year timeframe. We will align our efforts to those projects, which we know include making Livingston Avenue two-way, adding a cap to the Third Street bridge from downtown, and the new ownership by Children's Hospital of the AfriCentric property. We want to make sure our Third Street project aligns with the needs of those projects for one, cohesive investment in German Village and the near South Side.

We believe German Village needs the proposed infrastructure improvements. There are so MANY issues on which we must work together, and we want to be sure we are the excellent partners that both you as public servants and our neighbors deserve.

We know the value German Village adds to the City of Columbus. Experience Columbus CEO Brian Ross, has said: "As a restored, historic neighborhood adjacent to downtown, it is a distinctive asset that we frequently use in our sales and marketing efforts to attract convention groups and leisure tourists."

Columbus 2020's Jay Knox, has said: "When companies evaluate the Columbus market for a new operation, Columbus 20/20 creates custom proposals that frequently feature German Village as a quality of life draw when competing with other metro areas." In fact, Jay shared with us a version of the PowerPoint he takes on the road when his team is recruiting companies and executives to Columbus – we're very proud to be slide No. 24!

German Village's homes increase in value at 9.4% per year compared to 4.7% in the rest of the city. That is a direct result of the preservation principles we live day by day. Also, Bill Lafayette and Regionomics did a study that shows German Villagers pay \$4.3M annually in income taxes to the City. And while this appears to paint a picture of wealth, we also have about 3,500 residents over age 18 and all together, they lead the city in economic diversity, according to a Spring 2016 study published in the Dispatch.

I look forward to and invite ongoing conversation among our team and yours.

Sincerely,

Shiloh Todorov, Executive Director

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