



City of Cleveland

Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Department of Economic Development
Jevrose Bourdeau Small, Director
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August 4, 2026

The Honorable Blaine A. Griffin
President – Cleveland City Council
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 216
Cleveland, OH 44114

RE: Legislation for Passage – August 19, 2026 Meeting Regarding Amendment to Ordinance No. 906-2020: Circle Square TIF Project

Dear Council President Griffin:

I am writing to request your support for **passage** under suspension of legislation described below at the **City Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 19, 2026.** The legislation is as follows:

An Emergency Ordinance – To amend Section 2 of Ordinance No. 906-202, passed December 2, 2020, by removing “; and in no event shall the exemption period extend beyond 2052”.

This ordinance needs to be passed under suspension so the next phases of the Circle Square project can attract financing and sign a contract to secure Guaranteed Maximum Price for construction to enable future project phases. Future phases were not anticipated to begin later than 2022 at the time of the original ordinance, but the COVID-19 pandemic and following economic conditions delayed the upcoming hotel and residential mixed uses phases till 2026.

I appreciate your support and understanding of our interest in moving this project forward. If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 664-2204.

Sincerely,

Jevrose Bourdeau Small, Director
Department of Economic Development

cc: All Members of Council,
Patricia J. Britt, City Clerk, Clerk of Council
Mike Culp, Chief of Government Affairs