Ord. No. 960-2025

City of Cleveland
Justin M. Bibb, Mayor

Department of Economic Development
Thomas S. McNair, Director
601 Lakeside Avenue, Room 210
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1070
(216) 664-2406

July 28, 2025

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

RE: Legislation for Passage – August 13, 2025 – Rust Belt Riders Ground Lease

Dear Council President Griffin:

I am writing to request your support for **introduction and passage** under suspension of legislation described below at the **City Council Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2025** for the following

- *Repealing Ordinance No. 40-2025, passed March 31, 2025, which authorized the Directors of Public Works and Economic Development to enter a ground lease with Rust Belt Riders Composting, LLC for the use and occupancy of property known as PPN 125-16-003.*

From the outset, Rust Belt Riders Composting, LLC ("Rust Belt Riders") expressed its preference to enter a ground lease with the City instead of purchasing the property, which Council authorized in Ord. No. 40-2025. While negotiating the terms of a ground lease, Rust Belt Riders advised the City that it would rather purchase the property outright, as strongly recommended by the company's lenders and advisors. The City supports selling the property to Rust Belt Riders.

This legislation would repeal Ord. No. 40-2025 so that City Council can authorize the sale of property by separate ordinance. It would benefit the City of Cleveland by taking the first step to getting Rust Belt Riders site control so it can secure financing for the project. The timing of this legislation is critical because this change in deal structure has delayed the company's ability to proceed on schedule to consolidate its operations at the property. Economic Development and Public Works ask that this legislation be introduced and passed on August 13.

I appreciate your support and understanding of our interest in moving this project forward. If you have any questions, please contact me at (216) 664-2832.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. McNair

Thomas S. McNair, Director
Department of Economic Development

cc: All Members of Council,
Patricia J. Britt, City Clerk, Clerk of Council
Ryan M. Puente, Chief of Government Affairs