



August 17, 2009

Mr. Phil Ryan
Executive Director
Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency
712 South Sixth Street
Nashville, TN 37206

Dear Phil,

Our company has been fortunate enough to have been involved with many of the great public projects witnessed by Nashville in the past 15 years, many of them being initiatives overseen by your agency. None of those projects has been more exciting or more important for Nashville than the Music City Center. Its role in bringing visitors and accompanying tax revenue to our city will be key to our city's ability to move forward while keeping taxes low for many years to come.

The progress of this important project has been sidetracked in recent days by a flurry of allegations concerning the communications efforts by McNeely Pigott & Fox on behalf of the center. Our 22-year-old company has built a reputation for integrity and quality work, and these misleading claims against us have been very hurtful to us and our 65 very fine employees.

But just as harmful has been the issue's impact on this important project. Though communications efforts comprised just 3 percent of the visitor tax money spent to date on predevelopment activities for the Music City Center, it is beginning to occupy nearly 100 percent of the news reports about the facility. We do not believe this is at all fair, but we also do not want to prolong this debate.

Therefore, it is with great regret that we are voluntarily stepping down as the public relations firm of record for MDHA for the Music City Center project. We believe that this project is too important for Nashville's future for these communications contract issues – no matter how misleading – to take center stage. We believe that stepping aside will help get focus back where it needs to be – on getting a hugely important economic engine for Nashville up and running.

We appreciate the opportunity to have served you, your fine agency and your tremendous team on this project. We plan to stay involved as volunteers wherever needed.

We hope that our move will help take the discussion back to a more productive and constructive place, and we extend our very best wishes for the success of the Music City Center.

Sincerely,

David Fox

cc: Mayor Karl Dean
Metro Council