

METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY



KARL F. DEAN  
MAYOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
METROPOLITAN COURTHOUSE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37201  
(615) 862-6000  
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August 5, 2009

Phil Ryan, Director  
Metropolitan Development and Housing Agency  
701 South Sixth Street  
Nashville, TN 37206

Dear Phil,

In light of the reports aired by NewsChannel 5 this week on the communications contract for the predevelopment of Music City Center, I am instructing your department to temporarily suspend all activities with McNeely Pigott & Fox until the Department of Finance can complete a full review of the invoices paid to date and a new, more prudent approach to communications on this project can be determined.

I understand that shortly after securing MP&F that the MDHA board amended the contract in a public meeting to remove the cap on expenses of \$75,000. However, I do not believe that having an open-ended contract with a vendor is a fiscally responsible approach to managing this project.

Communicating with citizens and elected officials is a key part of any large public project, and my instructions should not diminish the importance placed on ensuring this remains an open and transparent process. At the same time, costs associated with communications, like every facet of this project, should be managed in a fiscally responsible way.

Going forward, I am also instructing your office to start sending all invoices related to the predevelopment of Music City Center to the Finance Department for review and approval before payment.

The development of Music City Center is too large of a project and too important for our city's future economic development to allow negative perceptions or potential mistakes in its financial management. I appreciate your full cooperation as we work to correct any deficiencies in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karl F. Dean".

Karl F. Dean  
Mayor

Cc: Vice Mayor Diane Neighbors and Members of the Metro Council  
Finance Director Rich Riebeling  
Jon Cooper, Metro Council Office Director