Hey allies,

Thanks for lending your voice and support to this important fight! As a next step, we’re asking you to **write personal letters** (along with a group of friends if you can!) to our city government. The first two city government bodies below are planning to transfer their public ownership of the land in question to NorthPointe Group. City Council members will then be asked to approve the deal. But together we can convince them to make a better choice for our city!

Send letters addressed to all three of the following recipients:

Cincinnati Recreation Commission

805 Central Ave., Suite 800

Cincinnati, OH 45202

Department of Community and Economic Development

805 Central Ave., Suite 700

Cincinnati, OH 45202

City Council- Neighborhoods Committee

C/O Vice Mayor David Mann

801 Plum St., Suite 356

Cincinnati, OH 45202

The content below may help you shape your letter, but be sure to use your own words to tell the city how you feel!

Here’s some language you may want to include:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the future of the public space at Main St. and Schiller St. In chorus with many other community voices, I urge you to exercise your power responsibly by asserting the following:

* **Ownership of the land where the basketball courts and community garden stand should NOT be transferred to a private developer!** The destruction and/or relocation of this space would mean an unnecessary loss for the kids and families that use it.
* The taxpayer-owned vacant land at this location provides an incredibly valuable opportunity for *equitable* development in our city. It should be reserved for a good neighbor developer willing to work collaboratively to include affordable housing for low-income families, public space for integration, and good jobs for local underemployed residents.

Here are some additional points we think are important to know:

* The basketball courts and garden are already ideally positioned—at the entrance of a vibrant neighborhood school that is an anchor to the existing community, and right outside a number of homes where children live.
* The basketball courts and garden do not stand in the way of development of the remaining vacant land in this 76,000 square foot area. Instead of planning around them for a total of 17 homes, the developer wants an additional 4 high-end homes in their place.
* This kind of public recreation space is an asset to equitable development across class and race. The priority to destroy it and/or move it out of sight underscores the discriminatory nature of this development plan.
* The public ownership of this space provides a unique opportunity to leverage a deal for *inclusive* development that meets the needs of the existing community—we should be utilizing resident input to make the most of it!

Thanks so much for lending your voice and heart, and stay plugged in for updates as they unfold!

In solidarity,

Keep Our Courts