



May 22, 2024

**Sent by email attachment**

Ersal Ozdemir  
Founder and Owner  
Keystone Group, Inc./Indy Eleven  
47 South Pennsylvania Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Re: Former Diamond Chain Site

Dear Mr. Ozdemir,

I am writing regarding the former Diamond Chain site on the southwest corner of Downtown.

While it was known at the time of the Eleven Park proposal that the Diamond Chain site was once the location of several cemeteries, after more than a year of historical research conducted in partnership with the community, including the establishment of the Community Advisory Group dedicated to advising the City and Keystone about Greenlawn Cemetery, we now have a greater understanding of the site. The City now believes as many as 650 remains are still located on just one acre of the site, and anticipated cost for proper treatment of remains on that one acre has grown to an anticipated budget of \$12 million.

As we have learned more about the site, the City has sought to take an active role in an effort to right the wrongs committed more than a century ago when the resting place of Indianapolis' first residents were erased from the map and paved over. Knowing what we know now, any proposed future development ought to follow a painstaking and inclusive community conversation on the different perspectives about how to respect the history of the site and the individuals still laid to rest there.

Any future development plans entertained by the City on this site should follow these community conversations, a call we are hearing from community groups and councilors alike. The City well recognizes your investment on this important and historic site and proposes an additional way forward – an offer that we hope can fairly compensate Keystone for its efforts.

In 2023, the City provided Keystone \$2 million under a pre-development agreement and related arrangement for the one-acre portion of the site needed for the Henry Street bridge. The City proposes to purchase the remaining portion of the site from Keystone at fair market value – defined for a city by law as not more than the average of two appraisals of the property, subject to all legal approvals, including the City-County Council. *See* Ind. Code § 36-1-10.5-5.

We stand ready to discuss the above with you, including the mechanics of a land purchase.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'D' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel J. Parker  
Chief Deputy Mayor/Chief of Staff

Copy:

All members of the Indianapolis-Marion County City-County Council