Dear Members of Denver City Council,

The leadership team of Clayton United Neighborhood Association (a registered Denver RNO) have actively participated in the community process relative to the future of the Park Hill Golf Course since February 2017. Beckah Terlouw is our Park Hill Golf Course Citizens Advisory Committee (PCAC) primary representative, with Danielle Ongart serving as our neighborhood’s alternate representative. All three Community Forums hosted by Clayton Early Learning have been attended by several of our neighborhood residents and RNO leadership. We are appreciative to Clayton Early Learning for both the process transparency and the invitation to participate in exploring ideas for the land.

Our neighborhood is immediately adjacent to the Park Hill Golf Course land and as such as we are deeply invested in the future of this property. Clayton Early Learning provides services to children and families within our neighborhood, and have for nearly 100 years. We are concerned with the financial stability of Clayton Early Learning, and we worry about the ability of Clayton to continue to serve children in our neighborhood once the golf course lease expires.

Clayton RNO leadership has worked closely with our neighbors to seek feedback regarding the possible redevelopment of the 155 acres. At our Clayton Neighbors Meeting on February 13, 2017, our RNO board facilitated a 45-minute visioning session with more than 25 neighbors (the sign-in from that meeting can be furnished upon request). The purpose was to ensure that our PCAC representatives spoke on behalf of our neighborhood when participating on the PCAC. Feedback generated by the Clayton Neighborhood from our RNO meeting in February can be accessed via our Google Drive folder. Note that zero participating neighbors desired 155 acres of open space.

We keep the Park Hill golf course redevelopment as a standing agenda item each month to keep neighbors informed of the process. Residents want thoughtful development inclusive of park/recreation space, business development (significant requests for a grocery store as our community is currently a food desert), and affordable housing.

Currently Danielle Ongart is the Clayton representative on the Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation. She was surprised to see the public letter from the INC PARC Committee calling for transparency around Park Hill Golf Course/Clayton Early Learning. The only time Danielle is aware of the INC delegation discussing the Park Hill Golf Course is at the April 8, 2017 delegate meeting (this awareness is based on a combination of public agenda, public meeting minutes, and participation in meetings). The discussion is summarized in the April minutes, and INC passed a motion that included the following language: “...Inter-Neighborhood Cooperation calls upon the public officials of the City and County of Denver (1) to commit to the preservation of Park Hill Golf Course and thereby prevent all or any part of it from being developed other than for park land, (2) to immediately commence contract negotiations with Clayton Early Learning with the intended goal of entering into a purchase and sale agreement for Park Hill Golf Course, and (3) to immediately reserve adequate capacity in the 2017 Denver general obligation bond
The PARC Committee did not have a meeting in August 2017, so the meeting reminder encouraged email recipients to “Please join Clayton Early Learning for Community Forum #2 to continue the community discussion regarding the future of Park Hill Golf Course.”

The September 2017 reminder email stated that the presentation would be about DPR’s Athletic Field Permit Policy Update, though there was a call out that “Our resolution concerning Park Hill Golf Course has gained some notice, please see the article that appeared in the Denverite this week,” with a link to the article. The minutes from that September 19, 2017 meeting outline that the 16 participants and presenters talked about the Park Hill Golf Course as follows: “Maggie Price Offered a letter from the Co-Chairs of PARC that had been sent to all City Council asking for transparency surrounding any negotiations concerning Clayton Foundation, Park Hill Golf Course and the Agency agreement. The letter was a result of input from concerned citizens and current news media. A link to the letter is here. http://www.denverinc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ParkHillGolf.pdf. CW Debbie Ortega confirmed that the plans for Park Hill Golf Course are being discussed by the City, Clayton College trust, and others in private (without neighborhood presence), and will be made public after further discussion. After a recent briefing, she believes the planning is in the right direction. Brad has information about this matter for those wishing it. CW Ortega expressed interest in some of the historical documents concerning the Clayton/Denver City Government and it was agreed to send them to her.”

The Clayton RNO wants it to be clear that we do not agree with the letter sent from the two PARC Committee Co-Chairs, nor do we believe that this letter represents the opinion of all INC members since it was not voted on by delegates at a delegate meeting.

We ask that you support the proposed agreement between the City and Clayton Early Learning to allow more time for the community to create a vision for the future of this land while simultaneously insuring that Clayton Early Learning can continue to provide early childhood education to children in our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Danielle Ongart, President
Beckah Terlouw, Treasurer
Devin Miller, Social Chair
Clayton United Neighborhood Association’s Leadership Team | www.claytondenver.org

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