

Rogers C. Anderson
Williamson County Mayor



WILLIAMSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

October 10, 2016

Mr. Eric Stuckey, City Administrator
City of Franklin
City Hall Mall – VIA Hand Delivery
Franklin, TN 37064

Dear Mr. Stuckey: *Eric*

In 2001, the Williamson County Board of Commissioners authorized the purchase of the former Battle Ground Academy (BGA) campus on Columbia Avenue. In 2011, a citizens Task Force was appointed to formulate ideas for the various uses and facilities for this 12.5 acre footprint, adjacent to the Williamson County Public Library. In accordance with the resolution outlining possible uses of the property, the Task Force consisted of the City Mayor, alderman, residents and other individuals with interest in senior citizens facilities and performing arts. The property was named Academy Park to encompass the entire parcels of property, including the renovated BGA gymnasiums, operated under the County's Parks and Recreation program.

Throughout the process, task force members provided input to the architect for the design and layout of the proposed buildings and park. Members of the current J. L. Clay Seniors Board served on the task force and part of the discussions that took place included the dissolution of their program as it now exists and that a new seniors program would be located in the Enrichment Center and operated under the County's Parks and Recreation program.

In spring of 2017, Williamson County is looking forward to the grand opening of the Enrichment Center and Performing Arts Center at Academy Park. The new Enrichment Center includes a multi-purpose room for 250, exercise, crafts and game rooms geared for senior programming. The Performing Arts Center includes state-of-the art, retractable, multi-level audience seating for 300, performance stage, dressing rooms, storage and a concessions area.

In accordance with the initial planning of the Academy Park campus, the buildings have been constructed to mirror that which was in place for the BGA campus from 1904 to 2010 and the mature trees have been protected in an effort to preserve the park-like campus.



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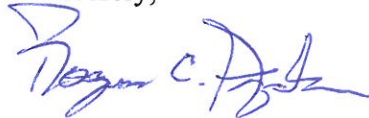
It is my hope that city staff and the Board of Mayor and Alderman for the City of Franklin, will be as proud of the campus and enjoy accessibility to the services and programs it will provide. We think that the neighbors and other city residents will be proud of this 12.5 acre park-like campus, located within walking distance from the heart of downtown Franklin.

As we have discussed throughout recent months, Williamson County respectfully request a financial contribution of \$500,000 from the City of Franklin to be utilized to help offset the cost of the project.

Enclosed are copies of the initial Academy Park plan, which outlines the multiple uses and facilities for which the park was designed. The park was recently home to a very well attended "Shakespeare in the Park" live theatre and we anticipate many more community events of this type.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rogers C. Anderson".

Rogers C. Anderson, Mayor
Williamson County

RCA/dg

Enclosures