

From: The Downtown Leadership Council (DLC)  
To: Mayor and City Council  
Date: December 5, 2018  
Re: Ameren Property in the North Village Arts District

Dear Mayor Treece and Members of the Council:

The DLC has recently reviewed the status of the Ameren Missouri property at 210 Orr Street in the North Village Arts District, the former Columbia Manufactured Gas Plant, for which the City has first right of refusal. It is the recommendation of the DLC that the City acquire the site to maintain it as a park and public space.

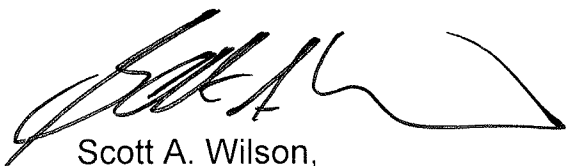
It is our understanding that the Department of Natural Resources has recently signed an agreement letter with Ameren Missouri following the cleanup of the site allowing the property to be sold, but with a restrictive covenant that prohibits certain uses and soil disturbance, given the continued contamination of the soil below.

Though it is disappointing the site could not be cleaned entirely, the DLC believes this is an opportunity for the City to acquire this unique piece of land in order to create a park and public space, as recommended by the H3 Charrette Plan approved by the Council in 2010. Given the unprecedented increase in student housing downtown since the Charrette, the addition of green space would serve to mitigate some of the negative impact to the North Village and adjoining neighborhoods.

Ideally, the City could acquire the property from Ameren at a great discount, contingent on the City receiving a Brownfield environmental cleanup grant from the EPA to help clean up the property. This would be a "win-win" for Ameren and the City, and would allow the City to create a park and public space for special events and neighborhood gatherings in the North Village, particularly given the disproportionate lack of parks funding previously appropriated to the First Ward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours very truly,



Scott A. Wilson,  
DLC Chair