



November 1, 2020

City of Columbia City Council:

I understand the Council is now asked to support the City's proposed leasing to the Columbia Improvement District (CID) a small parcel of city-owned land on the southeast corner of the Broadway and Providence Rd. intersection, to facilitate the CID's development of that spot as a Gateway Plaza feature at the north end of a planned Flat Branch Park expansion.

I am Chairman of CoMo 200, the Mayor's Task Force for Columbia's Bicentennial. Citizen engagement, design, and fundraising efforts for the Flat Branch Park Expansion *other* than the Gateway Plaza fall under CoMo 200's purview, in collaboration with Columbia Parks & Recreation. The council-approved Master Plan for the park expansion project includes the Gateway Plaza, and the proposed Gateway Plaza and its monumental "Columbia" sculpture sign have been an important conceptual anchor point for CoMo 200 as we plan for and promote execution of that Master Plan.

CID and city staff and management have been engaged for a very long time in planning and negotiations regarding the Gateway Plaza and how the CID may execute its \$1million pledge to build and give Gateway Plaza to the Park, the city, and the citizens; CoMo 200 encourages the Council to provide whatever support it can to help the City and CID now bring those plans and negotiations to fruition.

CoMo 200's parallel work to facilitate demolition of derelict site infrastructure, support natural restoration of Flat Branch Creek, and design and provide for a pedestrian bridge joining the lower elevation park to the Providence Rd. elevation have consistently relied on CID's successful execution of its pledge, its plans, and the Plaza. CID now brings to the Council a viable plan to make the Plaza a reality; I urge you to support the Gateway Plaza site lease proposed by CID and City management.

Very truly yours,

*David Lineberry*

David Lineberry  
CoMo 200