

**A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONCERN AND DISAPPOINTMENT REGARDING BROKEN
COMMITMENTS, LACK OF TRANSPARENCY, AND INSUFFICIENT COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT BY THE CITY OF COLUMBUS**

SOUTHWEST AREA COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. 26-0401

WHEREAS, the Southwest Area Commission serves as an advisory body representing the residents, neighborhoods, and stakeholders within the southwest area of Columbus, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Commission is charged with elevating community voices, advocating for equitable investment, and ensuring transparency and accountability in decisions impacting the community; and

WHEREAS, the community surrounding McCoy Park has long been promised meaningful investment, inclusive development, and access to recreational and community resources that reflect the needs and priorities of residents; and

WHEREAS, many of those commitments related to McCoy Park remain unfulfilled, delayed, or altered without sufficient explanation or engagement with the community and its representatives; and

WHEREAS, the census tract encompassing the Southwest Area Commission includes some of the lowest life expectancy rates in the State of Ohio, reflecting longstanding disparities in health outcomes, access to resources, and environmental conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus has, in recent instances, failed to provide adequate communication, outreach, and timely sharing of information with the Southwest Area Commission regarding projects and decisions that directly impact the community; and

WHEREAS, the lack of proactive engagement and meaningful consultation with Area Commissioners undermines public trust, limits community input, and weakens the effectiveness of collaborative governance; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Area Commission believes that residents deserve to be informed, heard, and meaningfully included in decisions that shape their neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, the Southwest Area Commission formally expresses its opposition to any ordinance, proposal, or action, including but not limited to Ordinance 1112-2026, that would result in the transfer, sale, lease, reduction, reconfiguration, or any other action that gives away, trades, or diminishes the existing footprint of McCoy Park.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SOUTHWEST AREA COMMISSION THAT:

1. The Southwest Area Commission formally expresses its concern and deep disappointment regarding the lack of transparency and follow-through on commitments related to McCoy Park.
2. The Commission asserts that McCoy Park is a critical and limited community asset within an area already lacking adequate green space, and any effort to reduce or repurpose this land without clear, direct, and meaningful community support constitutes a failure to uphold prior commitments and an unacceptable disregard for the needs of Southwest Columbus residents.
3. The Commission calls upon the City of Columbus to halt advancement of any such ordinance or proposal until a transparent, community-driven process is conducted, including direct engagement with residents, formal consultation with the Commission, and a demonstrated commitment to preserving and enhancing, not reducing, public access to McCoy Park.
4. The Commission urges the City to prioritize equitable investment in the Southwest area, particularly in neighborhoods experiencing the lowest life expectancy and greatest disparities in opportunity.
5. The Commission calls for improved, consistent, and proactive communication from The Mayor, City departments, including early engagement with Area Commissioners on projects, policies, and proposals affecting the community.
6. The Commission requests the establishment of a formalized process for ongoing consultation and collaboration between the City of Columbus and the Southwest Area Commission to ensure transparency, accountability, and meaningful public participation.
7. The Commission extends its appreciation to Columbus City Council for its outreach efforts and encourages continued partnership, responsiveness, and leadership in strengthening communication with Area Commissions.
8. The Commission directs that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of Columbus, members of Columbus City Council, relevant City departments, Franklinton Area Commission, and other stakeholders as appropriate and posted on the Commission's website and social media pages.

ADOPTED BY THE SOUTHWEST AREA COMMISSION ON APRIL 14, 2026



Liz Reed

Chair, Southwest Area Commission