



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER CINCINNATI

GREAT FUTURES START HERE.

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Dear Councilmember Owens,

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati is prepared to invest over \$3.5 million to build a youth workforce development center in Price Hill. As Price Hill faces challenges with youth delinquency and violence, Boys & Girls Clubs want to be part of the solution.

The Larry & Rhonda Sheakley Club in Price Hill serves 350 youth annually. While many of our grades have a waiting list, the Club sees a decline in teen engagement after age 15. Our solution is to build a dynamic youth workforce development center which will focus on preparing teens for life after high school. This new center will enable us to better convene businesses, universities, and trade schools to truly usher high school students into adult lives of self-sufficiency. Most importantly, it would also allow us to retain and attract more teens into safe afterschool programming.

Boys & Girls Clubs entered a contract to purchase the Radel Funeral Home property in June 2021 with them intention of razing the existing structure and constructing our first youth workforce development center. This property is directly next door to our Price Hill Club and has been on the market for 11 years and in a state of utter disrepair.

Constructing the teen center next door to the Sheakley Club is crucial to success. Boys & Girls Clubs has examined several other potential sites in Price Hill, but none fit the needs of the Radel property. Many of our families rely on public transportation and many of our older teens act as caregivers to their younger siblings, escorting them home from the Club each night. Placing a youth workforce development center in another area, even if it just a few blocks away from the Sheakley Club, creates transportation challenges and will break the pipeline of students already enrolled. Boys & Girls Clubs would also like to use exiting Club amenities like the gym and be able to share staff. Our staff, caregivers, and students have told us that building this center next door to the Sheakley Club is ideal and would be the location that will give us the best chance for success.

If the Radel building is deemed historic, we would not be able to move forward with the creation of a teen center in Price Hill. I ask that you consider the opinion of both the Historic Conservation Board and the Planning Commission, which both voted against a historic designation of the property.

This youth workforce development center would serve 150 students grades 10, 11 and 12 annually. This center will allow us to provide opportunity after opportunity for our teens and change the trajectory of thousands of youth in the years ahead. I ask that you prioritize the youth of Price Hill by supporting the teen workforce development center.

Sincerely,

William M. Bresser
Chief Executive Officer
Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati