

University City Community  
Foundation



"Caring for Our Community"

May 1, 2019

Gregory Rose  
City Manager  
City of University City  
6801 Delmar Boulevard  
University City, MO 63130

Mr. Rose,

It is with great sorrow that I am formally advising you that the University City Community Foundation will not stage Fair U City in 2019. The excessive financial burden you have chosen to place on the non-profit foundation makes our staging of the fair fiscally unviable.

Mr. Darren Dunkle with the Park Department has provided me with the full accounting of what the final payment requested would be, and that amounts to almost \$28,000. UCCF, as a non-profit organization, cannot spend \$28,000 and more to stage a community event that would not raise any money – we have never, in our history, made anywhere near that amount of money from the fair. Paying such an amount would defeat the purpose of holding the fair to raise funds to provide grants to deserving organizations within the University City community.

The Fair U City Planning Committee planned this fair as it has done for the past seven years, since we were not informed that there would be any changes in procedure. As you know, we have consistently copied your staff on each and every planning e-mail. Our former President, Patricia Washington, spoke with you last year and you indicated your support for the fair, while expressing a desire for a contract between the City and UCCF formally detailing the partnership that has been in place since 2011.

In February of this year, our Treasurer Robert Parker visited City Hall to have you sign the contract for the carnival rides. He was advised a new procedure was being developed, but details were not yet finalized. I met with you on March 7th. You indicated you believed that since we raised money at the fair, we should be able to pay the City for services. Since then Mr. Parker and I have been directed from one staff person to another; have had our phone calls and e-mails ignored or had much-delayed responses; and have been verbally humiliated by a commission member. Perhaps you forgot the committee is composed of all volunteers working for the betterment of our community. We deserved better treatment than that which we endured.

Finally, on April 25<sup>th</sup>, you advised of us your new conditions, after contracts have been signed and commitments have been made to vendors and musicians. You have indicated your staff would come up with a final cost – which we just received today; we would have to sign a contract with the City, a copy of which we also just received today; and then the Council



would have to vote on the contract, and that would happen later this month.

With these actions you have created a timeline in which the fair would come up for a vote mere weeks before the scheduled opening date.

This is untenable.

In losing Fair U City and the University City Jazz Festival, you are losing a community event that draws thousands of people from University City and beyond. You are losing the only event that is designed for the children and youth of our community specifically. We have created an event, organized and staged by volunteers, that has created only goodwill in our community.

The fair's departure is a great loss for University City.

We look forward to getting the detailed information on how you have and will charge other non-profit organizations that have received in-kind support from the City. We will be interested in seeing how these new measures are applied to other non-profits because, as you know, the City cannot treat organizations differently.

Finally, we would like to thank Ewald Winker and his crew for their years of support as this fair grew from a small carnival to a regional event, and to Police Chief Larry Hampton who, along with his predecessor, chose to staff the fair in a way that ensured a happy event for all.

We are pleased that, in the seven years of Fair U City, we had had no negative incidents, and no complaints from the City as to how we staged the fair, and how we left the park at the conclusion of the fair weekends. And, tens of thousands of people had a good time in a great community.

Sincerely,

*Linda Shaw*

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