



Diane Nichols Tradd
Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

Craig Thomas
Deputy Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Eileen M. Donoghue, City Manager *EMD*

FROM: Diane N. Tradd, Assistant City Manager/DPD Director

DATE: January 28, 2020

SUBJECT: MOTION OF 1/14/20 BY COUNCILOR NUON
REQUEST CITY MANAGER PROVIDE A REPORT REGARDING STATUS
UPDATE ON THE SMITH BAKER BUILDING

The City issued an RFP to sell the former Smith Baker Center for private redevelopment on July 2, 2019. The Coalition for a Better Acre (CBA) submitted the only response that proposes to create a performance hall and community center. The space would include programming for workforce development, arts, and education that will be modeled on other facilities in the region. However, CBA's lack of experience with community center development, a long rehabilitation timeline, and critical identified funding that is from future competitive grant applications, was of concern to the RFP assessment committee.

Given the City's concerns identified in the RFP response assessment, the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) met with CBA and requested additional information to ensure that the rehabilitation plan is viable and will lead to the immediate stabilization of the building while the funds are raised for a long-term, large-scale project. CBA anticipates a project cost of more than \$18 million and the City requested clarity on what costs are immediately required to stabilize and preserve the building. CBA is preparing the requested information now.

DNT/ns

cc: Craig Thomas, Deputy Director
Patricia Lucken, Asset Manager