

Fwd: Conversation Follow-Up

Matt Modelevsky <[REDACTED]>

Fri, Apr 25, 2025 at 3:53 PM

To: Carol Duncan <cduncan@jonesboro.org>, "Harold Copenhaver (hcopenhaver@jonesboro.org)" <hcopenhaver@jonesboro.org>, "brichardson@jonesboro.org" <BRichardson@jonesboro.org>

Carol:

At this time, I have resigned from the Board. My top priority has been the experience of our youth by helping provide a platform to develop them as people and players through soccer. I am also acutely aware of the importance of sports tourism in our community and was working diligently to put the club in a position to host meaningful events for the City that would have been able to bring significant economic impact to the community.

Unfortunately, after approximately a year of talking with the City about our concerns with what I understand to be the structure of City Stars Booster Club, its relationship to the City, the multiple potential conflicts of interest as City Employees and City Stars Boosters members & functions appear to overlap, the lack of transparency in the funding, misrepresented line items on financial information that was provided, along with misrepresentations about the use of the funds, the counter programming, frustration of ARFC's ability to access facilities or put on events, etc. you are now indicating the administration has no control over City Stars.

I would find it surprising that the City is just understanding the relationship to City Stars. According to you and the Mayor on our call City Stars has been in existence since Mayor Brodell. It is more surprising when there have been numerous meetings over the last year where the concerns about the structure, relationship to the City, and lack of accuracy or transparency into the funding have been discussed at length. Furthermore, as I am sure you know the City employs several "program directors" for various sports, including soccer. I understand those individuals are paid by the City, use City facilities for their offices, use City vehicles, etc. all for an entity that you claim the City doesn't control.

In an effort to provide quality programming, transparency, and accuracy in all program aspects we proposed that ARFC become a separate entity to the administration. In order to operate, ARFC asked for funding from the City to ensure that the costs to the citizens of Jonesboro did not substantially increase.

Obviously as members of this community, and as volunteers, we were hopeful the City would also prioritize our youth and community instead we have been told for the last year the City was "looking into this" or "we're working on this" or "we're going to do this we just need to figure a couple of things out" which is clearly not true. This could have easily been avoided by timely responses and honest communication from the City. However, it became apparent to me that the administration had no intention to work with Revolution, address the concerns raised about City Stars, or even communicate a meaningful response.

Since we were modeling our proposal after the Germantown Legends program I suggested as a potential last option that the City discuss whether the Legends could provide programming to our City. Of course, I have warned, and I will reiterate here, that this will likely result in an increased cost for our citizens since the City is apparently not interested in supporting the program financially.