



Over-the-Rhine Community Council  
P.O. Box 662  
Cincinnati OH 45201

August 26, 2019  
Cincinnati City Planning Commission  
Cincinnati City Council  
Sent Via Email

Subject: 3CDC Willkommen Project

Dear Commissioners and Members of Council:

On June 24, representatives of 3CDC attended the Over-the-Rhine Community Council (OTRCC) membership meeting to present a preliminary plan for its “Willkommen” Project. Unfortunately, what began auspiciously as an apparently sincere effort to engage the community, has quickly turned into yet another apparent attempt to skirt authentic community engagement.

At the meeting, 3CDC requested no vote of approval from the OTRCC, instead asking to return at a later date to present a final plan to OTRCC for a vote. Members of OTRCC made it clear to 3CDC that it was expected they would return to present a final plan for a vote *prior to* going before the Historic Conservation Board for approval. It was understood at the close of 3CDC’s presentation that they would do this. Unfortunately, 3CDC did not return to present at OTRCC’s July meeting, and instead attended and received approval for their project from the Historic Conservation Board on August 5, 2019.

Regardless of the substance of this particular project, it is absolutely imperative that the OTRCC, as the representative body of the neighborhood’s residents, be included in the process of such a large and impactful project, and that it have opportunity for meaningful engagement *prior to* an organization such as 3CDC obtaining final project approvals. It is simply unacceptable that 3CDC would renege on an agreement to return for substantive engagement on their final development plan, and would instead skirt resident engagement in an apparent effort to have their project fast-tracked.

The City of Cincinnati funds 3CDC, providing taxpayer dollars to support their efforts, and 3CDC must therefore solicit and receive feedback at public input sessions on major projects, including with the OTRCC. The OTRCC has made it abundantly clear on myriad occasions that it is our expectation that substantial development projects in our community will seek community input and provide ample opportunity for such input.

As stewards of the public funds that go to 3CDC, we urge you, Commissioners and Members of Council, to require that 3CDC return to the OTRCC for a comprehensive engagement process as a prerequisite of moving this project forward. We must object to any further approvals for this project until that has happened.

Respectfully,

Maurice Wagoner

President  
Over-the-Rhine Community Council

Cc: Mayor Cranley  
City Manager Patrick Duhaney  
Clerk of Council  
Tabatha Anderson  
Steve Leeper  
Adam Gelter  
Lann Field