

**MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL CALLED JOINT MEETING
CITY COMMISSION/BOYLE COUNTY FISCAL COURT**

The Board of Commissioners of the City of Danville, Kentucky and Boyle Co. Fiscal court convened in a Special Called Commission Meeting in the public meeting room at Inter County R.E.C.C. on Thursday, January 28th, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Mayor Perros
Commissioner Caudill
Commissioner Serres
Commissioner Terry
Commissioner Atkins

MAGISTRATES PRESENT:

Judge Harold McKinney
Magistrate John Caywood
Magistrate Jack Hendricks
Magistrate Patti Burke
Magistrate Phil Sammons
Magistrate Donnie Coffman
Magistrate Dickie Mayes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ron Scott, City Manager
Stephen Dexter, City Attorney
Richard Campbell, County Attorney
Donna Peek, City Clerk
Earl Coffey, City Engineer
Tony Gray, Police Chief
Glenn Doan, Police Captain
Derek Robbins, Deputy Sheriff
Dustin Clem, Deputy Sheriff
Michele Gosser, CFO
Pam Wright, Advocate Messenger
John Drake, Parks and Recreation
John Cocanougher, Parks and Recreation
Harold Boyd, Parks and Recreation
Cliff Hellyer
Susie Kelly
Former Mayor Bernie Hunstad
Former Mayor Hugh Coomer
Ted Baker
Betty Baker
John Ross
George Coomer
Martha Caywood
Ms. Wheeler
Mark Morgan
Dwayne Campbell, County Engineer
Jeff Peek
Others

Mayor Perros opened the meeting the time being 5:35 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. He then turned the meeting over to Richard Campbell, County Attorney to discuss the Dog ordinance.

1. DOG ORDINANCE DISCUSSION/ACTION:

Richard Campbell, County Attorney addressed the audience and discussed the dog ordinance. He said that he is currently working on the ordinance. He stated that it is not ready for distribution at this time, but will be ready for the next joint meeting.

Magistrate Caywood asked if the ordinance would include language to help defray the cost from the Humane Society when animals have to be sheltered there by order of the court.

Mr. Campbell said the language to offset some of the costs incurred will be in the ordinance. There is also a provision in the proposed ordinance that refers to a guardian of the animal - defining time lines of when the animal has to be picked up from the shelter.

Magistrate Patti Burke said if we pass such an ordinance it needs to be enforceable and enforced.

Mayor Perros followed up on Magistrate Burke's comments and said she is exactly right, if we don't enforce it then it is on only on paper and questioned if we would we need more manpower to enforce this ordinance.

Judge McKinney said he believe that we could enforce the ordinance with the individuals we have in place currently.

Richard Campbell said the manpower isn't usually the problem, it is the facility and wear and tear on the facility - that is and will be the problem.

Commissioner Rick Serres asked who is responsible to actually enforce the ordinance.

Mr. Campbell –said the county animal control has ultimate authority

Magistrate Burke said law enforcement can also enforce if they need or want too

Commissioner Atkins ask if Animal Control has the same powers as law enforcement

Mr. Campbell answered – no – not exactly – we went through this with our people – there is a question as to whether they have citation power or not.

Commissioner Atkins thanked him for the progress and update on the ordinance.

Judge McKinney asked everyone to get thoughts to Richard Campbell so they could be included in the ordinance.

Magistrate Burke – individuals are unaware of the planning and zoning ordinance that restricts individuals to three animals – we need to educate the public.

Commissioner Atkins asked if the ordinance would be adopted jointly or would each entity need its own.

Mr. Campbell – I think the county can pass the ordinance, I would then ask the City to repeal their current standing ordinances and the county ordinance would take over the area. We currently do this in a similar way with planning and zoning – all of us agree with one ordinance.

City Attorney Stephen Dexter – I agree that provisions in the city ordinance would align with the proposed ordinance and the city could repeal its standing ordinance, set out why and defer to the county as long as the county ordinance includes all of the city's current provisions.

The ordinance will be presented for review and passed at a future meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION:

Mayor Perros asked that Judge McKinney begin the discussion of Parks and Recreation.

Judge McKinney - we all know that we attempt to work together to run a parks and recreation program. The idea tonight is to say where do we go, what kind of programs do we want, do we have adequate staff, what if any capital improvements are needed going forward, I have asked that the chairman of the board of parks and recreation come by and discuss things with me, and he has.

Lurking in the back is what do we do about a pool? It has to be a discussion going forward. We have to think about - do we want to be in the pool business? With that I would like to open the floor for discussion.

Commissioner Caudill – I know in the past we have talked about Parks & Recreation and we have all frequently went back to the plan that was originally completed in the 1990's. Maybe it is time to start over with a new master plan or tweak the current plan to make it what we need now – times change – and this may guide our capital improvements plans for the future.

City Manager Ron Scott – passed out a memorandum to all Commissioners and Magistrates present – “Discussion of City and County Parks and Recreation needs” – (see attached)

Commissioner Atkins – we were given a packet from the parks and recreation department recently I believe - the last improvement “wish” list I received was just over a million dollars.

Commissioner Serres – Providing an effective Parks and Recreation system is vital to our community – I would like to mention a few of the benefits of having an effective Parks and Recreation system.

City Manager Ron Scott – (see attached memo)

- Developing team work skills
- Preempting drug use
- Reducing health care cost
- Creating a sense of community
- Generating substantial revenue
- Providing green space
- Improving quality of life
- Enhancing education outcomes

These are some of my thoughts on benefits I believe Parks and Recreation create for our community and many more could be stated. The question to all of us here is – how are we doing on these?

- How are we doing on providing programs for the community?
- What are we doing to provide adequate facilities? – (I believe they are inadequate)
- How are we managing the programs?
- How are we doing providing financial guidance (what fees should we charge)
- How are we doing on taking steps on the future needs of Parks and Recreation in our community?

I believe we have a wide range of options.

- The question of most effective administrative structure
- Clarification of authority to effectively operate
- Questions of adequacy of variety of programs
- Staffing and operation issues
- Human resources management
- Money solves problems – operational funding adequacy is there other funding
- The potential advertising and proper process to get the most buy in from the entire business sector
- The absence of program vs recovery (fee base)
- Identification of future facility (pool)
- Our current process and fee structure of renting fees – is there a better way to generate revenue

Who is accountable for the store?

Mayor Perros - These are questions I believe we need to ask – they have created challenges and we all need to address them to move forward.

So, how do we do that – that is a big question and we will not answer it tonight - but that is a procedural process to improve our program – how do we do that.

I quickly looked at the audit it shows that from the audit ending June 30, 2015 we are spending over 800,000 annually currently not including other things we pay for

Are we losing money – the bigger cost is things are always going up – these are not small operations – money is always going to be the problem.

County has Constitution Square and we have other parks that we need to discuss also.

How are we going about moving forward?

Mayor Perros - Food for thought – why reinvent the wheel ourselves. We have not been addressing – why not retain a consulting firm – money invested up front is better than waiting we should hire a consulting firm to move forward – jointly to see where we need to go, how to get there, etc.

Others added - Review, update master plan for the park

Why is it that we have separate leagues and they do not come through Parks and Recreation system, are they more competitive?

Interviewing parks and rec staff, people in the community, - what do we need or want for the future

Operation manual, administration of the facilities

Procedures, policies, rental policies, emergency procedures, etc. (do these exist)

Commissioner Terry - Where do we get the cash to operate – we could identify best national practices? Do they apply in Danville?

We could create a public private guidelines and partnership policy

A consultant could help us assess the needs of the community

Needs assessment survey

We all hear from citizens regarding the parks but we do not have a summary of what types of programs we need – a survey would help

Fees/cost recovery studies to show what other communities are doing

These are quick ideas – let's not be too resistant or reluctant to opportunity of using someone experienced in this area.

Magistrate Phil Sammons - Local industries would step up and help with funding if we just ask

Magistrate Caywood – I would like to add with your comments that we need to visit some parks that are being progressive. I will tell you when Millennium Park was put together it was looked at as being a tool for recruitment for industry. I cannot sit here and tell you what we need out there – I do have to see it - I will admit - we tend to take our grandchildren to other facilities - other than Bunny Davis and we don't have to go very far to go to a better facility, which is sad.

Magistrate Sammons – I think we are side stepping and ignoring the outdoor theatre, which was in the master plan, and more trees. If we had stayed with the master plan more closely we would have accomplished more of our original goals of the project.

Commissioner Serres – I believe it is a breakdown of communications – I believe the parks, City and County used to meet once a month and discuss the items in the park and the future of the parks. I think it is

wrong for us to try and run them – I think the communication is lacking between the director, board, City and County and we should all be on the same page and discuss items.

Mayor Perros – Jennifer, do you have any idea of how much money comes in to other communities from the parks and recreation systems to help promote tourism.

Jennifer Kirchner – Millions of dollars

Commissioner Serres – What are the differences in Danville/Boyle County parks vs. others that bring in so much revenue to their communities.

Jennifer Kirchner – we do not have the facilities other communities have

Commissioner Serres – so we may be on the right direction, talking to our industries. The parks need support.

Jennifer Kirchner - I would also add – volume of the parks in your community - do you have the correct size facilities? Expansion is critical for the future.

Magistrate Burke – We have a definite problem with facilities. For example in youth basketball – teams only practice three times total before the season begins!! For some children – this may be their first experience in basketball. How can they be prepared with only three practices?

Mayor Perros – I don't know what the answer is, but perhaps someone with the expertise needs to come in and tell us where we need to be and where we need to go in the future.

Judge McKinney – I agree with Pattie – sometimes we forget the generations. I want to make sure the parks are accessible to the handicapped. They should be for the old as well as the young and our community should be able to serve them first. I am going to dig out the old study and make copies for all of you – see what we have first – and discuss where we need to go.

Mayor Perros – the topic tonight has been Millennium Park. Don't forget, we have other parks.

Commissioner Serres – what is Parks and Recreation in charge of? That is a huge question – is it just Millennium, or all parks? John and his crew should be part of the maintenance and programming of the parks, but to what extent? We have the money - he doesn't – that is where I see dysfunctionality. We have many parks – how do we govern that the best.

Commissioner Atkins – As I see it, there is a trust factor with the Parks and Recreation, City and County. We can talk about a lot of things from the master plan, to new ideas, but if we do not communicate with each other – we will not be successful
Things don't happen unless we communicate. If we are going to move forward with recreation in our community the trust has to be reestablished. Trust between City and County and trust between the parks and recreation workers and City/County has to happen.

Magistrate Caywood – we need to take a step forward and I agree with City Manager Ron Scott – to get the most out of our investment we do need a consultant and see where we need to go – we will make better decisions and ultimately that would be a great discussion

Commissioner Serres – I would like with permission, to get a comment from the parks and recreation staff

Judge McKinney – Do I agree with all things that are going on? I don't, but let's not have a barbeque of the staff

Magistrate Hendricks – we have been talking about hiring outside consultants, we have talented people in place to discuss the parks and future of what is needed. The parks and recreation director has given us a list

of what to do. Before we go to outside consultants – remember, our staff has told us and said this is what we need, but we have a list, when are we going to step up and do it?

Parks and Recreation Director John Drake – this plan was adopted by the parks and recreation board. Thank you first of all to the friends of the park. The parks and recreation board manages the parks, this could be a great night – we could come together tonight however, we do not trust each other. I can answer the question – I am the store keeper, and have been for the last 20 plus years. I have been to all of the meetings.

Ron has his top ten list – my top three list is – have an annual joint budget hearing with the City and County to set up the financial blueprint. Why don't we meet together and discuss the funding of the parks.

Refocus on the upgrade of Bunny Davis center or begin discussion to replace it, please don't let the fitness center spiral down to nothing. I will add that we may be subsidizing other fitness centers, when we own our own center.

Return the administration and care of the parks to the parks board. Simply give the right to have the board to oversee the parks and give us some money. We feel as though our hands are tied.

I would add things we need to stop doing that we are currently doing

Attempt by governmental powers to take administration out of parks hands
Lack of communication

You discussed programs, I would add that travel teams are here in Danville. We coordinate with these teams and I believe we are adding revenue. We start March 19th and go through the end of August with baseball and softball

Things we need to continue to do as a community are funding of the fitness center, continue to support the 7 member City/County park board – it needs to stay in place. It is a non-political board that does not focus on the politics but focuses on the kids. Also, support signage at the parks. Administrative structure of the parks need to stay intact.

In closing the parks department has zero litigation and the safeguards we have in place, we are working for your kids. The process must be a comprehensive plan to move forward. Danville had a City County partnership when I was hired, we should all be proud of the Parks and the plans we have.

Mark Morgan said everyone should thank John Drake, his staff, the park board – for the work they do and what they have accomplished in the park systems. There are many trust issues that need to be discussed and cured. Misstatements have been made and they need to be addressed in a professional way.

Commissioner Atkins – I think this is just a start and we need to continue the dialogue. We need to continue to meet and get something done.

Mayor Perros – where do we go from here.

We have to do something with the pool – if you want a facility that is comparable to Woodford County – that would be about 12 million dollars. We need to figure out how to pay for a facility in the future. The good news is that Centre College is interested in playing a role in the discussion of a future aquatic facility – perhaps KSD would like to play a role in it – there are many opportunities out there. Before we close the pool, we will need to have something else in place.

Commissioner Serres – tonight I saw some heads nodding - but in parallel we need to fix this trust level – I myself go to the parks and recreation meetings and would encourage others to attend.

Mayor Perros – while I appreciate John’s comments I think one thing we have to address is the relationship and responsibility between us as dispensers of the parks and recreation board. I don’t know how the structure should be going forward, but both the City and County currently write big checks and there should be more recognition of that.

Magistrate Coffman – added that he works with other Parks and Recreation programs and feels that the staff works well.

Mayor Perros – what is the next step

Magistrate Hendricks – find a different facility to compare to – find a smaller picture to look at – 12 million dollars is not realistic for Danville/Boyle County, we need to be realistic. That is where I think we should begin.

City Manager Ron Scott – What are our other needs? I believe we should hire someone to help us get it right the first time.

Commissioner Atkins – We have a joint meeting scheduled February 25th, at 5:30 p.m. here at Inter County R.E.C.C. We should allow the park and recreation board to state their points at the next meeting.

Commissioner Terry – maybe we need to reinstate a new committee to say what are our goals and objectives are. John came in when Millennium Park was being built and it seems the discussion is always the Millennium vision while the other parks usage has fallen through the cracks. I think that is where the lack of communication started. I suggest that our first step is to reform the Parks board for Millennium Park discussions and decisions going forward.

Judge McKinney – I believe there are things that set a Parks board, let’s pull out the old parks plan and start there. Where do we want to be? Maybe the City and County are in different mindsets?

Commissioner Terry – how much did we set aside for the Parks study –

City Manager Ron Scott - \$15,000 in the current budget is allocated for a study of the Parks

Magistrate Burke – the citizens, if they want more, they will need to be willing to help fund it. We, the County, do not have a money tree in the back yard

Magistrate Caywood – would it be such a stretch to invite the people at this table to come to the meetings in the future and maybe understand the workings of Parks and Recreation

City Manager Ron Scott – citizens need to understand the cost and the willingness to pay – I will again say that we need a study done by an outside consultant to let us know what the needs, costs, etc. are moving forward.

Magistrate Hendricks – We are on the parks committee at the County and we meet with all of the board February 11th at 9 a.m. – We have committees that meet with the parks boards, etc. I am not sure why the City doesn’t do the same.

Commissioner Terry – I would volunteer – to be present at the meetings – I didn’t know that the board met with a committee and the county alone. That would help communication between the partners.

Judge McKinney – everything is done by committee in the county, everything –

Commissioner Terry – again, I would like to have a joint committee

City Attorney Dexter – perhaps that would be the move going forward

Magistrate Sammons – I would agree that we used to get more things done when the Parks committee was in place.

Mayor Perros – if we are going to spend this type of money I agree with Ron in the need for an outside consultant

City Attorney Stephen Dexter – There does not seem to be answers tonight to hire a consultant to advise the City and County on our park system. However, if we do not come up with a plan of action, we will be talking about these same issues in 10 years. Why don't we re-establish a joint City/County committee to review the state of our park system who can then bring recommendations to the City & County for action. It may or may not include the hiring of a consultant, but that could be a starting point.

The City Commission and Fiscal Court closed the meeting and announced that a second joint meeting will be held on February 25th, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. here at Inter County R.E.C.C. – to continue the discussion of the parks and allow the Parks and Recreation board members and others have comment

ADJOURN:

Magistrate Sammons made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Caudill and approved upon voice vote.

All parties concurred and agreed to review standing ordinances prior to the next meeting and discuss reestablishing a joint committee.

APPROVED:

G. MICHAEL PERROS, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DONNA PEEK, CITY CLERK

Memorandum

To: All Members, City and County Governing Bodies
From: Ron Scott, City Manager
Date: January 28, 2016
Re: Discussion of City and County Parks and Recreation Needs

Providing an effective parks and recreation program to our city and county has many benefits. To name but a few, some of these benefits are:

- 1) Developing and enhancing the physical and mental health and well-being of all our residents from all walks of life, both old and young;
- 2) Creating and enhancing the confidence and leadership abilities of our youth through success stemming from their involvement in competitive sports;
- 3) Developing teamwork skills of young/old that will be of benefit throughout life;
- 4) Prevention or reduction in use of drugs stemming from a low self-image;
- 5) Reducing health care costs of our citizens (particularly those related to obesity) by providing a selection of programs for people to use throughout life;
- 6) Creating a sense of community among people of different backgrounds, leading to a corresponding reduction in crime against property and persons;
- 7) Generating substantial new revenue to the community through "sports tourism";
- 8) Providing green space for "family bonding" activities at no-cost;
- 9) Improving "quality of life" for our city/county that increases economic activity as people want to move and live here (new home construction, higher real estate values);
- 10) Enhancing economic development outcomes as companies want to locate in areas where their employees will want to work, live, and enjoy a high-quality of life.

These are my quick "Top 10 List", but this list is by no means complete. As we come together today to have a discussion on the topic of city and county parks and recreation, it's important to ask the following question:

"How are we doing?"

More specifically, this "How are we doing?" question should be asked regarding each of the following questions regarding our parks and recreation facilities and programs (which are but a few of the questions that we might ask):

1. How are we doing in providing adequate programming to meet the current needs of people in our community?
2. How are we doing in providing adequate facilities to meet existing needs?
3. How are we doing in providing effective and efficient administration of our programs and maintaining our grounds and facilities?
4. How are we doing in providing financial resources to meet our needs (and in cost recovery issues of what fees are appropriate to charge for services)?
5. How are we doing in both planning...and taking steps to meet...the future parks and recreation needs of our community?

Probably, opinions will vary regarding these questions, depending upon one's perspective. My own view is that currently, opinions are quite varied with regard to all of these questions.

In my opinion, these varied opinions currently exist regarding at least the following:

1. The most effective administrative structure to provide parks and recreation programs and services;
2. Clarification of authority under an administrative structure to operate an effective parks and recreation program (both scope and limitation of authority);
3. Adequacy of variety in programs and quality of current program offerings;
4. Staffing/operational issues (process of human resources, management oversight);
5. Operational funding adequacy from the city, county (and are there any other sources?);
6. Potential advertising/sponsorship opportunities and appropriate process to implement;
7. Absence of program cost recovery policy and administration of such,
8. Identification of future facility needs (i.e., aquatics facility to replace obsolete pool);
9. Current process and fee structure of renting park facilities or alternatives to renting;
10. Accountability for administrative and performance issues.

These varied opinions have created relationship and organizational challenges that must be addressed in order to address the above-listed issues (and perhaps others yet to be identified). Accordingly, it is important to ask the following question:

“How are we (the leadership of the city and county) going to address these questions”?

Financial Condition of Parks and Recreation. Consider if you will that the most recent (and I note “clean”) audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015 for the Danville-Boyle County Parks and Recreation Department. That report showed (in part, below):

- Total contributions from the city and county government to be \$477,500, other income to be \$30,956, and program revenues to be \$303,994 for total revenue of \$812,450 (audit, page 8).
- The city and county's contribution increased by \$22,500 from the prior year (and the audit doesn't reflect additional expenditures of approximately \$50,000 in total equally made and shared by both the city and county to improve Millennium Park;
- Two out of three programs had decreased revenue (recreation, swimming pool);
- Expenses increased over the prior year for three out of five expense categories although total expenses (\$801,656) were 6.7% below the budgeted amount.

The variations in revenue and expense are not the primary issue here; what is important to note is that the city and county are fast approaching the day where we will be jointly expending \$1 million or more for parks and recreation services in millennium park (jointly owned), including the expenses at the Bunny Davis Recreational Complex (City purchased the facility without county sharing that expense, but the county does contribute to operational expenses). This looming \$1 million will be for operational and program costs just to continue to do what we are currently doing and not considering any new services or programs to meet future needs.

Also, it should be noted that both the city and county have additional parks expenses (city has other neighborhood parks and the county has Constitution Square and others). Additional funds are also being spent to develop a network of trails in Danville and Boyle County (consisting of grants/city/county expenditures).

The major point here (among others) is:

- **On Millennium Park alone, it will soon cost over \$1 million annually to operate. How do we know what services are desired from our citizens?**
- **How do we identify future needs, opportunities (both program and capital expenditure needs)?**
- **Other related issues.**

Recommendation. It is my recommendation that the best way to address these issues is for the city and county to jointly retain through a competitive selection process a qualified firm that specializes in all areas of parks and recreation consulting. Currently, the city has in this year's budget an allocation of funds to hire such a consultant. If the county would agree to do likewise, we could begin the process of selecting a qualified consultant to prepare reports that our city and county leadership would then use to make important decisions regarding these issues.

In my opinion, this would be the most cost-effective way to deal with the expensive questions of how to best provide programs, services, and facilities that will meet the current and future needs of our city and county ("community"). In my opinion, if the city and/or county fail to act it will also have a cost on our community to the degree that our joint parks and recreation program fails fully realize the goals and opportunities listed as the "Top Ten Benefits" of an effective parks and recreation program first listed above.

Examples of Consultant Studies. These types of studies would in my opinion help guide and shape the development of parks and recreation programs and facilities in our community:

- Review and Update Master Plan for Millennium Park – Review demographics in our area and region to determine the need/opportunity for renovation of existing facilities and/or construction of new facilities (Aquatics Park). Review current program service areas, population changes/projections, obtain citizen input and that of staff, board, etc. regarding these. Potentially included would be development of facilities operations manual that would include policies and procedures for personnel and administration regarding handling of cash, customer service, computer/website requirements, rental policies, cleaning and maintenance, and emergency procedures.
- Parks Development and Operational Funding Study – Examine funding source options for park and recreations capital equipment and on-going operations. Identify national

“best-practices” in the parks and recreation field and review/analyze available state, regional, local, or other funding mechanisms/opportunities. Propose a process for overcoming the challenges and describe a scope of work for staff/consultant to implement effective funding strategies to provide ongoing, adequate financial support of the parks and recreation program to meet defined needs (current and future).

- Create Public/Private Partnership Guidelines and a Sponsorship Policy for Parks and Recreation – Conduct legal research into the requirements and limitations for developing public-private partnerships to promote greater non-governmental funding/revenue opportunities, also utilizing research of what industry experts recommend and involving management staff in the process.
- Recreational Needs Assessment Study. If not part of a larger study, conduct a statistically-valid survey regarding perceived adequacy of current recreational programs and services, and desired future recreational programs, services, and facilities. This survey would obtain input from citizens, stakeholders, and staff.
- Cost-Recovery of Program Costs: Development of Philosophy and Policy. As noted above, it is becoming expensive to provide parks and recreation services. This study would provide a framework for making future planning, budgeting, and pricing decisions and impact the types of services that might be offered. It would be a system-wide cost recovery model and policy that would reflect the mission and values of the community regarding desired parks and recreational programs.

There could be a variety of studies conducted; the above are but a few of the possibilities.

In closing, please note that these observations and recommendations are intended to be made in both a respectful and helpful way. These were written in some haste today, so if I have failed to state these observations and suggestions in the manner intended, I ask you to consider that fact, and to view the recommendations in the manner in which they were intended to be communicated.

In my opinion these are big issues that didn't develop overnight, and have a large cost associated with either taking action or in taking no action. In my opinion, they will be successfully addressed only if we work together with integrity and in a collaborative and sustained way. Our primary goal should be to provide our community with effective and efficient parks and recreational services and facilities that meets the “Top 10” goals first suggested above or as otherwise defined, developed, or modified by our community.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and future response regarding this important matter.