



Official GCC Statement on Q Deal August 31, 2017

Available for Interview

Pastor Jawanza Colvin (via assistant) – 216-816-7391

Pastor Richard Gibson – 216-429-2922

Today, Greater Cleveland Congregations (GCC) has reached an agreement that will benefit both downtown and Cleveland's neighborhoods, and has agreed to withdraw petitions challenging the Quicken Loans Arena deal.

GCC applauds the expressed commitment from County Executive Armond Budish, through mediators, to mental health and substance abuse crisis centers, which GCC has sought throughout its current campaign. This commitment represents a dramatic shift toward decriminalizing mental illness and drug and alcohol addiction. Research and evidence suggest that the construction or rehab costs for at least two centers to be \$10 million, with an annual costs of roughly \$1.4 million per center. We recognize the county's intent to further research these investment costs and search for best practices.

These centers in other cities have been shown to save municipalities tens of millions of dollars over the life of the centers. Even more importantly, coupled with the ADAHMS Board and the county's continued commitment to Crisis Intervention Training for law enforcement officers, these centers can contribute to a dramatic reduction of our jail population, as it has in other cities around the country. THIS WILL BE OF SIGNIFICANT BENEFIT TO OUR ENTIRE COMMUNITY.

GCC also acknowledges with esteem the bridge-building efforts by Bishop Larry Macon and Dr. C. J. Matthews of United Pastors in Mission (UPM) for bringing parties to mutual agreement for the benefit and betterment of our entire community.

This agreement represents a shift toward truly connecting downtown development with community investments which prioritize our most urgent community needs.

GCC is a powerful force for change, creating justice and opportunity in Greater Cleveland by uniting our faith communities and civic partners across lines of race, class, and religion.