



City of Cleveland
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor

Office of the Mayor
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November 4, 2020

Mr. Lance Himes, Interim Director
Ohio Department of Health
246 North High Street, Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Interim Director Himes,

I am writing in support of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse's "Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse Activation Plan." The purpose of the plan is to request a capacity variance for Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse under the guidelines set forth by the Ohio Director of Health on August 25, 2020.

The Cleveland Cavaliers and Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse have worked closely with the Cleveland Clinic, the City of Cleveland, the State of Ohio, the National Basketball Association, and several leading sports venue consultants and partners to develop a plan that prioritizes the health and safety of event attendees and employees. The "Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse Activation Plan" meets or exceeds all federal, state, and local COVID safety guidelines and has been approved by the Global Biorisk Advisory Council and the WELL Building Institute. In addition, Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse is equipped with HVAC air purification technology that cleans the indoor air at the venue.

Since March 12, 2020, Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse has safely hosted 70+ events within the guidelines of the "Responsible Restart Ohio" rules and regulations. These events ranged from 10 to 300 guests and demonstrate their willingness and ability to safely host larger events.

The "Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse Activation Plan" requests a variance for a total venue capacity of 4,596 people, which is 23.65% of Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse's typical 19,432 person capacity. This reduced seating capacity is based on up-to-date best practices for social distancing indoors.

The Cleveland Cavaliers and Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse hope to host the CBS Sports Classic, a collegiate basketball event, on December 19th and as such are requesting a decision on their capacity variance by December 1st. This will allow ample time to educate fans and staff on the new safety standards and to distribute tickets.

I am in support of the Cleveland Cavaliers and Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse's "Rocket Mortgage FieldHouse Activation Plan" because of its thoroughness and their proven ability to safely host events during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you have any questions regarding my support, please contact Valarie J McCall, Chief of Communications, Government and International Affairs, at vmccall@city.cleveland.oh.us or Brian Kimball, Interim Director Cleveland Dept of Public Health, at bkimball@city.cleveland.oh.us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Frank G Jackson
Mayor