

MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE – ZOOM MEETINGS  
**Monday, May 24, 2021**  
**6:30 p.m.**

**A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

At the Regular Session of the City Council of University City held via videoconference, on Monday, May 24, 2021, Mayor Terry Crow called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

In addition to the Mayor, the following members of Council were present:

Councilmember Stacy Clay  
Councilmember Aleta Klein  
Councilmember Steven McMahon  
Councilmember Jeffrey Hales  
Councilmember Tim Cusick  
Councilmember Bwayne Smotherson

Also in attendance were City Manager, Gregory Rose; City Attorney, John F. Mulligan, Jr.; Director of Planning and Zoning, Clifford Cross; Director of Public Works, Sinan Alpaslan, and Director of Parks, Recreation & Forestry, Darren Dunkle.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Crow stated the City Manager has requested that Item I(2); Centennial Commons Gymnasium Interior Painting, be removed from the Agenda.

Councilmember Cusick moved to approve the request, it was seconded by Councilmember Hales, and the motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Hales moved to approve the Agenda as amended, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick and the motion carried unanimously.

**D. PROCLAMATION**

1. LGBTQ Pride Month - A Proclamation declaring the month of June 2021 as LGBTQ Pride Month in the City of University City and urges its residents to actively promote the principles of equality, liberty, and justice.

Councilmember Clay moved to approve the Proclamation, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick, and the motion carried unanimously.

**E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1. May 10, 2021, Study Session – River Des Peres were moved by Councilmember Klein, it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick, and the motion carried unanimously.
2. May 10, 2021, Regular Meeting were moved by Councilmember Hales, it was seconded by Councilmember McMahon, and the motion carried unanimously.

**F. SWEARING IN TO BOARDS & COMMISSIONS**

1. Sylvia Morris was sworn into the Civil Service Board via Zoom on May 11<sup>th</sup>

## G. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

### ***Procedures for submitting comments for Citizen Participation and Public Hearings:***

*ALL written comments must be received **no later than 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting.** Comments may be sent via email to: [councilcomments@ucitymo.org](mailto:councilcomments@ucitymo.org), or mailed to the City Hall – 6801 Delmar Blvd. – Attention City Clerk. Such comments will be provided to City Council prior to the meeting. Comments will be made a part of the official record and made accessible to the public online following the meeting.*

*Please note, when submitting your comments, a **name and address must be provided.** Also, note if your comment is on an agenda or non-agenda item. If a name and address are not provided, the submitted comment will not be recorded in the official record.*

Mayor Crow thanked citizens for taking the time to submit their written comments. All comments meeting the aforementioned guidelines have been made a part of this record.

Mayor Crow stated while he certainly looks forward to receiving comments in-person, rather than in a written format, he believes it will be just as difficult to transition from this process as it was to implement it. So, he would ask for everyone's patience.

## H. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Petition to Add Real Property to the Markets at Olive Community Improvement District.

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 6:37 p.m., and after acknowledging the receipt of several written comments, the hearing was closed at 6:37 p.m.

2. Crown Center for Senior Living 353 Redevelopment Plan, Including Tax Abatement

Mayor Crow opened the Public Hearing at 6:38 p.m., and after acknowledging the receipt of several written comments, the hearing was closed at 6:38 p.m.

## I. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Asphalt Overlay Improvements Project (#1484)
2. Centennial Commons Gymnasium Interior Painting; *(Removed)*

Councilmember McMahon moved to approve Items 1 and 2 of the Consent Agenda, it was seconded by Councilmember Clay, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rose stated he would like to commend Chief Hampton and his staff for their excellent police work which led to the capture of two suspects wanted for the heinous murders that occurred within U City and Brentwood.

He stated Black lives do matter and based on that belief he would like to add his voice to the condemnation of the Louisiana State Troopers who murdered Ronald Green. Mr. Rose stated these actions do not reflect the values held by the vast majority of law enforcement officers, and therefore, he prays that justice will be served.

## J. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Opening of Centennial Commons and Heman Park Pool

### ***DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION***

Mr. Rose read the following statement into the record:

*"On May 14, 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention took aggressive action and lifted most of the Corona Virus restrictions that were in place for over a year. The plan for opening our pool and Centennial Commons was intended to allow our residents to enjoy the pool and Centennial Commons and be safe when doing so. We are doing everything possible to adjust to the new guidance provided by the CDC on May 14th. The current plan calls for reduced hours until we can hire and train the staff needed to return to normal operating hours.*

*We are aware the roll-out plan will need adjusting as we navigate the opening of the pool and Centennial Commons in an environment that has a shortage of people applying for these types of positions.*

*Our first adjustment came on Friday when I authorized during the training period of our staff, access to the pool and Centennial Commons would be free to all U City residents. Because of our strong financial position, if the Council desires, we can continue this free service to U City residents the entire summer for a cost of approximately \$200,000. I would not recommend making the free service permanent, as those revenues will likely be required in the future.*

*There may be other adjustments we will need to make when opening and operating the pool and Centennial Commons due to the fluid nature of this pandemic. I would ask for your patience as we try to balance allowing our residents to enjoy our facilities and ensuring their safety."*

Mr. Dunkle stated Mr. Rose's comments unmistakably reflect his departments' objective to open these facilities in the safest manner possible based on its current staffing levels.

Councilmember Clay asked for the current operating status of the pools? Mr. Rose stated since staff had no concerns with respect to obtaining licensed lifeguards, the decision was made to open all facilities within Centennial Commons.

Mr. Dunkle stated the pools are scheduled to open this Saturday, and the hours of operation are as follows:

Heman Park

- Open Swim - 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends; 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays
- Lap Swim - 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on weekends; 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on weekdays

Centennial Commons

- Monday through Thursday - 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
- Fridays - 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Saturdays - 8 a.m. to noon
- Sundays - closed

Councilmember Clay asked what the ideal staffing level should be for Centennial Commons and where the City is in relation to that number? Mr. Dunkle stated before COVID they had 35 part-time and full-time employees, and today they have 20 employees. Lifeguards and the maintenance operations of the pools are contracted out to a third party, so the only City staff involved in that aspect of the operation is the front desk and concession stand employees.

Councilmember Smotherson stated as an avid gym enthusiast he would like to recommend that the schedule be revised to accommodate the most important time for workouts which are mornings and evenings; 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. He stated the hours from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. where there is a lull in activity could be used as a training period.

Mr. Rose stated while they certainly hope that people will utilize these facilities as they have in the past, and he can guarantee that should that happen Mr. Dunkle will make the appropriate adjustments to serve the largest percentage of the community, at this point, no one knows if that will occur. He stated they would love to be fully staffed, however, recruitment for these types of positions has become a national challenge.

Councilmember Klein stated the Swim Club and water aerobics are two important programs that she would like to see get back up and running.

Mr. Rose stated a request went out to the U City Swim Club last Thursday for a proposal to help staff better understand their needs. So, they are waiting to hear back from them.

Mr. Dunkle stated they have not received proposals for programs from any outside organization, and all in-house programs have been placed on hold due to staffing limitations.

But here again, the hope is that they will be able to reinstitute some of these programs as they move forward.

Mr. Rose stated any individual or organization interested in coordinating the water aerobics program is certainly welcome to submit a proposal for staff's review.

Councilmember Hales stated he is somewhat confused by these comments since his understanding is that every member of Council and staff listed on the email he received had also received the proposal from **Mr. Granneman** of the U City Swim Club to the Director of Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Rose and Mr. Dunkle both stated that they had not received the proposal.

Councilmember Hales stated he was aware that the Mayor had not received a copy and when he tried to forward it to him there were a series of large attachments that he was unable to send. So perhaps, the City's email system is limited in that fashion as well. If that is the case, then he would be willing to put them on a drive and share them with everyone.

Mr. Rose stated he would discuss the issue with IT. However, once staff receives the proposal it can be quickly reviewed to provide Council with their thoughts on how to proceed.

Councilmember Hales stated while he thinks it is a great idea to offer a period of free access to residents, he received another email questioning the intelligence of opening the pool if the lifeguards have not been properly trained, and staff is having an issue with taking payments? Mr. Dunkle stated all of the lifeguards have been trained and certified, so other than them becoming familiar with the facility no other training is necessary. He stated they are anticipating large crowds after being closed for a year, so part of the rationale behind free access was to limit cash transactions to give some of the new employees' time to be fully trained on the software.

Councilmember Hales stated he also received emails from groups like the Swim Club about some of the City's policy changes. And while it is unfortunate, that some of the previous policies were not necessarily followed, it is very important on several levels to know exactly who will be utilizing these facilities. He stated he fully supports the efforts made by these groups and does not think anyone wants to restrict them from having that access.

Councilmember Hales stated this whole issue associated with the City's recreational facilities seems to have evolved last week, so he would commend the City Manager and Mr. Dunkle for listening to these concerns and working to take this swift action to address them.

Councilmember McMahan stated he would also like to commend staff for their efforts to work through this process. Oftentimes you're not aware of all the different groups who utilize these facilities or how a policy change can impact them. But he believes there is a sincere willingness to find solutions and keep them all engaged. Councilmember McMahan then asked Mr. Dunkle if he would explain what he means by an outside group? Mr. Dunkle stated he considers anything that is not a City-sponsored Parks & Recreation program to be a program offered by an outside group or agency.

Councilmember McMahan stated his understanding is that there is a process in place for these outside groups designed to assist them in delivering the services they provide to the City's residents. Mr. Dunkle stated he and his staff work with several outside groups in the areas of, baseball, soccer, football, tennis, aquatics, and they are attempting to do the same with new groups as fast as they can.

Councilmember Klein stated Council truly appreciates all of the clubs and groups that operate in the City's facilities and hopes they will be patient as staff tries to work through this process.

Mayor Crow asked what process would be utilized to ensure that the free access program will be correctly administered? Mr. Rose stated the approach staff plans to take for about one week, will be based on the honor system. And if Council agrees to extend the program beyond that week, then they will initiate a rollout of what the required documentation should be. Mayor Crow stated based on what he's seen nationwide during outside activities, the likelihood is that scores of people will opt to utilize the pool this Memorial Day. So, are there a limited number of people that will be allowed in the pool at one time? Mr. Dunkle stated the occupancy for the pool is 900 individuals. However, the number of lifeguards is dictated by the County's Ordinance which is based on the body of water and not the number of people.

Mr. Rose stated Centennial Commons has a different set of standards that will require staff to keep a very close watch on all of its facilities.

Mayor Crow stated any change in the revenue stream generated by these fees will take an action by Council. So, he would encourage his colleagues to consider their responsibility to balance the desire to enhance these facilities and support any financial restraints that might hinder participation in these activities, with their fiscal obligations to the entire community. He stated there is no pass on this one because this \$200,000 in fee reductions involves revenue.

Councilmember Clay stated he also has some concerns with the pool reaching its maximum capacity and staff's ability to manage large crowds. But as it relates to the fees, his suggestion would be to perform means-testing. Because while a reduction in fees may be beneficial to some folks, it may not be as beneficial or even necessary for others. So, this could be a measure that would lessen the financial impact, and still support the idea of making these facilities available to everyone. Councilmember Clay stated he is aware that the City already has a scholarship program in place, and while he realizes there are staffing implications, perhaps that program could be scaled up and used as a means to make sure that everyone has access.

Mr. Rose informed Councilmember Clay that staff would have to conduct some additional research on that program and bring their results back to Council. However, what he would like everyone to keep in mind as they move through this process is that the aggressive action taken by the CDC caught a number of City's by surprise, and as a result, they are all scrambling trying to play catch-up. So, while the process is going slower than they had hoped, he does believe they will be fully staffed before the end of summer.

Councilmember McMahon stated he agrees that there does need to be a balance between the ability to create some excitement about the use of these facilities and the income that could be generated. However, his position has always been that the City's recreational facilities represent a service the City provides, that at some point, may require some level of subsidy.

That said, he is a little concerned about allowing this type of subsidy for three months, what the rollout will look like, and the potential problems associated with staff's ability to safely monitor large crowds of folks. So perhaps, there could be a gradual approach from a slightly different angle. Councilmember McMahon stated he would agree that some people can afford to pay these fees more than others can, so during the first week of free access the focus could be on ways to exhibit these facilities and the services they offer in a manner that entices those who can afford the fees to initiate a new membership.

Mayor Crow asked Mr. Rose how he would like Council to proceed with this matter? Mr. Rose stated at this point he was trying to get an understanding of Council's willingness to explore the free service for an extended period of time. So, after the first week is completed, he and staff will revisit this issue and make a recommendation on whether it should be extended further, which he can do administratively for a couple of weeks until it reaches the \$25,000 cap.

Councilmember Clay stated he thinks communication is going to be key. It should be very crisp so that folks are made aware of exactly where the City is in the process and believes everyone will benefit if a decision can be made early on. So, guidance from Council should be sought as soon as possible.

Councilmember Hales stated he would concur with several comments made by his colleagues; communication will be key, and this does present a great opportunity for people to explore the services offered at these facilities. There is a possibility that this plan could go very well, so he is good with taking an incremental approach that will allow staff to evaluate the program after the first week and extend the services for a week or two until Council can review their recommendation.

Mayor Crow asked Mr. Rose if, at some point, he could provide him with a macro view of the number of hours these facilities will be open each week versus the number of hours they were open pre-pandemic.

Secondly, he thinks everyone is guilty at times of using in-house nomenclatures when communicating with people who are not a part of this environment. So, he truly hopes that the phrase "*outside groups*" will not be included in anyone's communications to the public. And to the citizens who are watching, Mayor Crow stated he recognizes that much of this conversation will be shared with other residents. And while it is likely that Council will make some mistakes as this situation continues to unfold, he hopes everyone understands that they will always do their best to pivot and move forward. So, he welcomes everyone's direct input because that's what helps Council and the community to become a better place.

Councilmember Smotherson asked Mr. Rose if he could get a copy of the hourly information requested by Mayor Crow. Mr. Rose stated it will be distributed to the entire Council.

## **K. NEW BUSINESS**

### *Resolutions*

1. **Resolution 2021-8** - A Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Advance the Design Phase of the Renovation of the City Hall Annex for a Police Station and the Trinity Building for Municipal Court Operations and the City Council Chambers.

Councilmember McMahon moved to approve; it was seconded by Councilmember Cusick.

Councilmember Smotherson asked how this project was going to advance without the Obligation Bond? Mr. Rose stated Council set aside roughly 4.5 million dollars for the construction of a police facility. And this is what will allow the City to advance to the initial design phase, which he does not anticipate will take the entire amount. He stated at this point, it is still unknown what impact the reopening of the economy will have on the City's revenue, but he believes that if it returns to its normal range there will be an opportunity to evaluate whether the General Obligation Bond will even be needed. And if there is a positive impact on revenue then the City's existing revenues could be used to execute a Revenue Bond.

Mayor Crow stated if his understanding is correct, then it would be important to note that the City is very close to being debt-free? Mr. Rose stated that is correct.

Councilmember Clay asked Mr. Rose if he could outline the steps referred to in the Resolution, which reads, "*Authorizing the City Manager to take all necessary steps*"?

Mr. Rose stated the next step would be to engage Trivers about performing the design phase. Thereafter, Council will be tasked with deciding what approach to take for implementing the design, and what amount of community outreach they feel is appropriate. He stated the Police Department, Public Works, and the Assistant City Manager, will be heavily involved in overseeing the construction phase. Councilmember Clay asked if Council would be involved in the review of Trivers' contract? Mr. Rose stated that they would be.

Mayor Crow stated he would like to commend previous Councils for the substantial set aside, and the City Manager for his proactive responses during the pandemic, both of which have attributed to the City's financial position and the ability to move this project forward. And even though he thinks everyone believes that a bond issue is good for long-term assets, if we continue down this path residents will probably be able to take a deep sigh of relief knowing that the City has the capability to use its resources before asking them for more.

Mr. Rose stated the shifting of the economy should have a positive impact on the City's revenues, and staff's goal is to ensure they leave no stone unturned as it relates to the City's ability to finance these projects.

Councilmember Cusick stated he was somewhat confused about whether the plan is to approach Trivers for a cost estimate or to actually have them develop the design phase? Mr. Rose stated the intent is to work with Trivers to develop the scope and put together an agreement outlining the cost for designing the project, which will be brought back to Council for consideration. He stated Trivers has significant experience with the Annex, having recently completed the Space Needs Study and evaluation, so his belief is that that experience will benefit the City in terms of the design costs.

Councilmember Hales questioned whether the use of a Revenue Bond would impact any of the City's previously established priorities related to fully funding the Fire Department, ambulances, and the utilization of a million dollars plus per year for street repairs?

Mr. Rose stated the real answer is that is not the intent, but there are no guarantees. No one knows what the impact will be on the City's revenues, and that's why this evaluation period and the ability to advance the design are so vital. He stated if the City returns to its normal revenue, which would typically mean an increase, then his answer would be a definite no.

Voice vote on Councilmember McMahon's motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Councilmember Smotherson.

### *Bills*

#### *Introduced by Councilmember McMahon*

2. **BILL 9431** - AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 7150; CONTAINING AN EMERGENCY CLAUSE. Bill Number 9431 was read for the first time.

Mr. Mulligan stated this Bill includes an Emergency Clause which requires three readings and unanimous approval by Council.

Pursuant to the City Attorney's instructions, Mayor Crow asked for the second and third reading of Bill Number 9431.

Bill Number 9431 was read for the second and third time.

Mr. Rose stated this action would withdraw the Prop P Bond initiative scheduled for the August 3rd ballot and provide staff with an opportunity to evaluate whether the need for such a bond exists in the future.

Councilmember Clay asked if the repeal of this Ordinance means that staff is fairly certain that there will be no need to vote on a General Obligation Bond this year? Mr. Rose stated that is correct. Staff is asking for some time to evaluate the City's revenue stream as the economy reopens. Councilmember Clay stated if the scenario changes and staff realizes that a bond is needed, would that decision kick this down the road to 2022? Mr. Rose stated that is correct.

Mayor Crow stated while technically that is correct, he believes the next time a bond could be placed on the ballot is in November? Mr. Rose stated that is correct.

Councilmember Klein asked Mr. Rose if he was aware of any scenario where the repeal of this Ordinance would impede the progress of the renovations? Mr. Rose stated at this point, he does not see a set of circumstances that would impact the project.

Councilmember Hales asked Mr. Rose if the intent of this evaluation period is to give staff time to assess whether the City has the means to complete this project on its own without asking voters for any type of tax increase? Mr. Rose stated that is correct. Councilmember Hales stated he thinks his constituents would be pleased to wait and see how this analysis plays out.

Mayor Crow stated what makes this action somewhat interesting is that Clayton has decided to ask for a tax increase, while U City is trying its best to use its own money to make capital improvements.

Councilmember McMahon asked Mr. Rose if a valid explanation for the impetus behind the decision to conduct an evaluation at this point, is simply that the City was able to maintain its financial stability during the pandemic? Mr. Rose stated that is correct. The previous action Council voted on to place this measure on the ballot was conducted based on the probability that COVID would have a drastic impact on the City's financial status.

Roll Call Vote Was:

**Ayes:** Councilmember Klein, Councilmember McMahon, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Cusick, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember Clay, and Mayor Crow.

**Nays:** None.

*Introduced by Councilmember Hales*

3. **Bill 9432** – AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 400.070 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE CITY OF UNIVERSITY CITY, MISSOURI, RELATING TO THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP, BY AMENDING SAID MAP SO AS TO CHANGE THE CLASSIFICATIONS OF MULTIPLE PROPERTIES FROM PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – MIXED-USE (PD-M) ZONING TO PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – MIXED-USE (“PD-M”) DISTRICT; AND ESTABLISHING PERMITTED LAND USES AND DEVELOPMENTS THEREIN; CONTAINING A SAVINGS CLAUSE AND PROVIDING A PENALTY. Bill Number 9432 was read for the first time.

*Introduced by Councilmember Smotherson*

4. **Bill 9433** - AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A PETITION TO ADD REAL PROPERTY TO THE MARKETS AT OLIVE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT AND FINDING THAT SUCH ADDITIONAL PROPERTY IS A BLIGHTED AREA. Bill Number 9433 was read for the first time.

## **L. COUNCIL REPORTS/BUSINESS**

1. Boards and Commission appointments needed
2. Council liaison reports on Boards and Commissions
3. Boards, Commissions, and Task Force minutes
4. Other Discussions/Business

## **M. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Crow thanked the Police Department for their excellent work on the tragedy that befell this community and the City of Brentwood and would like to extend his deepest sympathy to the Goodkin and Zacharev families.

He stated he would also like to commend the 2021 U City High School graduates whose commencement services are occurring this evening. This class received over 7 million dollars in scholarships and his hope is that some of these young people will come back to U City to make it an even better place to live.



**N. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion to go into a Closed Session according to Missouri Revised Statutes 610.021 (1) Legal actions, causes of action or litigation involving a public governmental body and any confidential or privileged communications between a public governmental body or its representatives or attorneys.

Councilmember Hales moved to close the Regular Session to go into an Executive Session, it was seconded by Councilmember Smotherson.

Councilmember Smotherson asked if the City was still under a state of emergency? Mr. Rose stated that it is.

Roll Call Vote Was:

**Ayes:** Councilmember Klein, Councilmember McMahon, Councilmember Hales, Councilmember Cusick, Councilmember Smotherson, Councilmember Clay, and Mayor Crow.

**Nays:** None

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Crow thanked everyone for their participation and closed the Regular Session of Council at 7:43 p.m. to go into a Closed Session. The Closed Session reconvened in an open session at 8:16 p.m.

LaRette Reese  
City Clerk



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**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** FW: Citizen Participation Comment: Opposition of New Centennial Common & Heman Pass Policy

**From:** Lydia Casmier Derfler <lcasmier@brandeis.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 12:56 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared <councilcomments@ucitymo.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Citizen Participation Comment: Opposition of New Centennial Common & Heman Pass Policy

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

No actually this is - thanks for your assistance!

Name: Lydia Casmier Derfler  
Address: 1041 Roth Ave, University City, MO 63130

As a third-generation U City resident I am ashamed and appalled by the decision to limit Heman Pool and Centennial Commons use only to season pass holders, also known as wealthy (read: predominantly white) residents. It would cost my family of six \$525 for access to Heman Pool. I can tell you right now that, as a salaried professional, I am personally unable to afford this luxury tax to swim.

U City leadership will say that there are COVID risks they must address. But the CDC estimates that the chances of transmitting COVID outdoors is less than one percent for vaccinated people, and just one to nine percent for the unvaccinated. Outdoor transmission has been deemed "rare" by the CDC.

U City leadership will say that they have a staffing shortage, while my younger brother, like so many Americans in this period of unprecedented unemployment, sits at home eagerly seeking work. I was a lifeguard at Heman for three years, and my mom was a lifeguard before me. Working at Heman and Centennial Commons is a rite of passage for many high school students. I will personally get you thirty applications by tomorrow if that is of real concern to the leadership.

To be very clear, U City is taking a public good away from the very taxpayers who finance these facilities. By limiting access to wealthy residents you have effectively placed a "Whites Only" sign on your door. Never mind that the services and goods you have eliminated (camp, daycare, team usage, open use of the gym) will have a disproportionate impact on Black kids who have been locked in their homes for over a year now. Never mind that low-income residents are happy to pay day fees, as they have since this pool's inception. Never mind that U City would rather forgo that revenue than to share this precious resource with it's most disadvantaged populations.

U City is closing off Heman Pool and Centennial Commons to the general public. This is devastating news to my family and to so many others after a year of isolation and confinement. I adamantly oppose this segregationist and fiscally irresponsible policy, and I hope that you will swiftly reverse the decision to limit recreation access to pass holders.

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Hello,  
Below was the last version that I received on 5/20/21 at 10:48 a.m. It is the correct one?  
Thank you,

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**Lydia Casmier Derfler**  
MPP/MBA Candidate, The Heller School for Social Policy  
Program Administrator, Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
Brandeis University | [www.brandeis.edu/diversity](http://www.brandeis.edu/diversity)  
Pronouns: she, her

**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Karna Sherwood <karnarama@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 24, 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

To whom it may concern

I Karna Sherwood live at 6840 waterman ave and I am writing the City Council to allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

Sincerely

Dr Karna Sherwood



**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** John O'Gorman <ogormanjf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 8:45 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I, John O'Gorman live at 6342 Pershing Avenue and I am writing to the City Council to allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

My family have been season pass holders for years, so this request is not about providing any benefits to us, but rather my desire to ensure that other families have access to this important swimming program.

Thank you, and please let me know if you would like more information on this matter.

John O'Gorman

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**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Jill Duchinsky <jmduchinsky@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 8:35 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** UCSC access to Herman Park Pool

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I, Jill Duchinsky live at 6811 Waterman and I am writing the City Council to allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

Regards,  
Jill Duchinsky

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**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Tamara Arnow <tammy.arnow@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 3:20 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** Comment in support of University City Swim Club

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I, Tammy Arnow, live at 529 Midvale Avenue, and I am writing the City Council to allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Until recently, I was the president of the board of UCSC. I spoke at a City Council meeting in March 2020 in support of a partnership between the swim club and the City, so that more UCity residents could learn how to swim. Indeed, many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim, and the club is positioned to provide meaningful, life-saving programming. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

Thank you.

Tammy Arnow



**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Amy C <alwayslove2swim@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 1:37 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** Heman Pool and UCSC

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

My name is Amy Chappuis and I live at 7306 Colgate Avenue, and I am contacting the City Council to show support for the swim team and programs at Heman Park Pool this summer. Please, allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) access to the Heman Park Pool. I have been a part of the UCSC team since 2005 when I came back to swimming as an adult. I was a swimmer when I was younger and nothing beats the health and fitness that I gained as a result of joining the team. I know that it has been an excellent resource for swimmers and novices of all ages for many years. Not being able to swim during the shutdown was pretty devastating. I can't imagine going through another summer like that.

UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

Thank you,

Amy Chappuis



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**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** ATT <biowa@att.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 9:32 AM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** Please let UCSC swim

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Council Members,

We - Robert, Kara, Ferguson and Harrison Beardsley - live at 6935 Waterman Avenue and are writing to request that you allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool this summer.

We are NOT UCSC members but are aware of their fantastic mission because a minor in our family swam with UCSC until their inability to find pool time during the pandemic forced her to move to the Clayton Tideriders (CSP). We are fortunate to have the resources that allowed us to do that - but many do not. We also are lucky to have made that move early when there was still room at CSP, but that option doesn't remain for others even if they can afford it.

In denying UCSC access to the Heman Park Pool this summer, you would be (a) preventing many from practicing and advancing the sport that they love, (b) denying others the ability to learn and compete in one of the healthiest life long sports, and (c) most likely ending one of the best, community-organized programs in UCity. And you would be doing this in a way that is most discriminatory against our fellow UCity residents who may not have access to alternatives. Private pools and those in more affluent Metro suburbs have been open throughout much of the pandemic, including to other swim teams (CSP, etc), and without any evidence of increased COVID infection. In part this is because of practice of appropriate control measures, but also because sun (UV radiation), chlorine and even water are highly viricidal to the entire class of coronaviruses.

Immeasurable developmental and psychological injury has been done to entire generations throughout this pandemic, so please allow programs like UCSC to begin to heal this COVID collateral damage. Let them swim.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Beardsley, PhD; Kara J. Beardsley; Ferguson J. Beardsley; Harrison R. Beardsley - all majority-aged residents and registered voters of University City



**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Nicole Deptula <nicole.deptula@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 8:25 AM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** Access to Heman Park Pool

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I, Dr. Nicole Deptula, live at 6840 Waterman Ave and I am writing the City Council to allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicole Deptula

**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Robyn Haspel <rjhaspel@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 10:47 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** Heman Park Pool

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I, Robyn Haspel live at 7036 Pershing Avenue and I am writing the City Council to allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

Thank you

Robyn

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Robyn Haspel  
7036 Pershing Avenue  
St Louis, MO 63130  
[rjhaspel@gmail.com](mailto:rjhaspel@gmail.com)

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**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Ashley <ashleylaurenstl@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 9:38 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Council Members,

I, Ashley Powers, live at 7472 Stanford Avenue and I am writing the City Council in regards to allowing the University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

Thank you for your consideration,

Ashley Powers



**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Renee Van Stavern <rdbailey26@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 8:00 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** Comment for City Council Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I, Renee Van Stavern, live at 7040 Kingsbury Blvd. and I am writing the City Council to allow University City Swim Club (UCSC) to access the Heman Park Pool. UCSC, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in St. Louis, is committed to fulfilling its mission to train youth and adult swimmers, support their athletic and personal development and help them to develop a love of swimming through skilled instruction, opportunities to compete, a financially accessible and flexible program, and a supportive community of swimmers and their families.

Many families in University City have no other avenue to learn to swim. I ask that you allow UCSC members to utilize Heman Park Pool so that our residents can learn the life-saving skill of swimming and improve their health and fitness.

Sent from Mail for Windows 10



**LaRette Reese**

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**From:** Ellen Howe <ellen@theromegroup.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 22, 2021 1:56 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** University City Swim Club Comments for May 24, 2021 City Council Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

I, Ellen Howe, am a University City resident living at 7325 Cornell Avenue and I am Board Member for the University City Swim Club (UCSC). I am writing to request that the University City allow UCSC access to Heman Park Pool.

As requested by Darren Dunkle, CPRP AFO, Director of Parks, Recreation and Forestry, in an email on Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup> to UCSC member and University City resident Elizabeth Pickard, the Swim Club will be submitting a formal proposal requesting use of the Heman Park Pool.

Since the 1970s, UCSC has taught, coached and trained youth and adults to acquire and refine their swimming ability. For many University City residents, this is their only affordable and feasible opportunity to access the life-saving and health improving skills and benefits of swimming. UCSC has been able to do this because of partnerships with University City and the University City School District.

We recognize that the pandemic has presented new challenges regarding the operations of the Heman Park Pool. We want to express our willingness and desire to assist you in addressing those challenges.

1. COVID 19 Health Risks in the Swimming Pool:

- UCSC is a member of a number of national swimming organizations that have compiled data and suggested procedures to minimize the health risks that COVID 19 might pose. We are happy to share this information with University City.
- Additionally, UCSC and its members are committed to following the COVID-19 protocols established at Heman Park Pool.

2. Staffing Concerns:

- It is our understanding that Midwest Pools will be providing lifeguards for Heman Park. We do not anticipate that the number of UCSC members utilizing the Pool will impact the lifeguard to swimmer ratio.
- Additionally, an instructor trained in life-saving and teaching swimming will be present at any UCSC activity conducted at Heman Park Pool.

3. Revenue Concerns:

- There should be no increased costs related to UCSC members utilizing the pool. Actually, the participation of UCSC members should increase revenues for the pool
- All UCSC programming and its participants are covered under our own insurance so there is minimal financial risk.

Sincerely,  
Ellen Howe

Ellen Howe, Senior Consultant  
The Rome Group  
3101 Olive Street  
St. Louis, MO 63103  
m: 314-780-9299

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LaRette Reese

**From:** Trisha P. <tpflantz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 21, 2021 1:16 PM  
**To:** Council Comments Shared  
**Subject:** Heman Park Pool Policies for 2021

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I am writing to protest the new membership and entry policies in place for the Heman Park pool during summer 2021.

As a University City resident for a decade, I have been proud of our public pool and how it truly serves as a community asset for all of our city's residents: young or old, black or white, wealthy or poor. That is not true of many of our neighboring cities, where there are no public pools, and access to decent pools seems to rely on membership to a country club (or the assets to own and maintain a pool in your own back yard).

In this light, I am disturbed by the recent restrictions that University City has put in place for Heman Park pool during this upcoming summer.

By eliminating all walk-in customers and putting in place a requirement for a full-summer membership to gain entry to the pool, you are instituting a significant barrier for families who can't afford to pay a lump sum for a pool pass at the onset of the summer. In addition, you've immediately put usage of the public pool out of reach for anyone who wants to visit the pool only casually throughout the summer, without committing to full-season purchase prices. You assume that those swimmers will return in future years once your restrictions have loosened. But once those customers have the habit of going to a public pool elsewhere, you run the risk of losing them indefinitely.

Not only is this new policy not reflective of the existing science around Covid - it also is far more restrictive than Covid-era restrictions at pools in our neighboring communities.

For example, I've looked at the web site for the Maryland Heights Aquaport - which is a much larger venue, with more crowding problems, in my experience - and I don't see any similar restrictions for that facility. I've also looked at the web site for the Des Peres Pool - in order to regulate crowds, that community is requiring only non-residents to make advance reservations for pool usage. Residents are still given access to their public facility, even without reservations. The Shaw Park Pool in Clayton is basing its admissions on a cap of 250 people. Wouldn't that make the most sense and cause the least hassle - to determine an appropriate cap, based on the facility's size and current recommendations for social distancing, and have your front-desk staff enforce crowd containment as needed? Then you don't need to establish a reservation system at all.

I have been to this pool at various times over the course of several summers with my kids. Very rarely would I consider the pool "crowded," or anything near capacity. I can understand your desire to cap attendance on a given day to meet Covid restrictions (of which, I would note, there are significantly fewer for outdoor venues). But please remember, Covid is a disease that rarely spreads in outside venues. You can read this recent NYTimes article about the rarity of Covid spreading outdoors to see that such a scenario is statistically insignificant:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/11/briefing/outdoor-covid-transmission-cdc-number.html>

I have also heard that some council members are concerned about the front-desk staff handling money "due to Covid." However, the CDC has said months ago that the spread of Covid is almost exclusively airborne and has little to do with touch transmission, with the possible exception of medical settings where Covid patients are being treated. In any case,

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it's easy to put out hand sanitizer for the staff (like restaurants and other businesses do) or to give them gloves for handling money and credit cards.

In conclusion, I would challenge you to do some research and find out if this policy is in line with our neighboring communities, or if University City is going above and beyond common-sense measures in the name of safety.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter, and I hope you are willing to re-evaluate your policies for residents' use of the pool this summer before the season kicks off at the end of this month.

Trisha Pflantz  
431 Westgate Avenue