



KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State Capitol

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

502-564-8100

Dear West Louisvillians,

As your neighbors and elected representatives, we are proud to share a West End success story from the 2021 Kentucky Legislative Session. After many years of work, the West End got a big win – a long-term, multi-million-dollar investment known as the West End Opportunity Partnership.

In the final days of the 2021 Legislative Session, a small, bi-partisan group of state legislators convinced our colleagues that it's time to make a lasting difference. The legislation passed by the Kentucky General Assembly and signed by Gov. Andy Beshear creates a Black-led, community-based board with the resources and tools to improve West End neighborhoods through home stabilization, job creation and community improvement.

The Partnership will be funded initially with \$30 million -- \$10 million each from local, private and state resources.

Recently, the Louisville Metro Council made the initial investment of \$10 million. Business, civic and philanthropic leaders are collecting pledges that will meet or exceed the city's contribution. And these two investments will trigger another \$10 million investment in state funds.

The \$30 million investment is just the start of a West End-driven improvement project. Over the next 20 years, 80% of all additional tax dollars collected from the West End – the area west of 9th Street and north of Algonquin Parkway – will be reinvested in **our community**.

The Partnership will be a **game changer** for West Louisville by combining public and private resources to improve the community. A neighborhood-based group – not leaders in other parts of Louisville or Kentucky – will decide how the dollars generated from the West End are reinvested in the West End.

Our goals are the same as any community: good-paying jobs, greater access to healthcare, stable housing and food security.

The success of the West End Opportunity Partnership will ultimately hinge on us – the citizens who live in this community. A 21-member board, which will include representatives from each of the nine neighborhoods and leaders of respected Black-led organizations, will call the shots on how the money is invested.

We need you and other West End residents to pull together – to work together cooperatively – to fully leverage this initiative.

We have enclosed an informational piece for your review and we invite you to visit our website, www.westendpartners.org, to learn more and sign up for regular updates. If you or someone you recommend desire to serve, please complete and submit the attached interest form.

Together, we will create the best for the West. Let's do this together!

Handwritten signature of Gerald A. Neal in black ink.

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