

Good Morning...Thank you for joining us today. We are here today to announce we are dropping the eminent domain proceedings, we are shifting the site of the soccer stadium slightly west and we will break ground in the fall ensuring we will begin play in the new home of Orlando City in 2016.

Commissioners I want to thank you for your commitment to the revitalization of Parramore. Together, over the last decade we have made strategic investments from affordable housing to Parramore Kidz Zone to world-class amenities that bring jobs and opportunities for residents. Our community venue projects have been a cornerstone of our revitalization efforts, in fact nearly 700 Parramore residents have been employed through our Blueprint Employment Office.

Most of you have followed the City's effort to purchase Faith Deliverance Temple as the last parcel of land for our Major League Soccer stadium. From the very beginning the discussion with the Williams Family was always about relocating the church and the value of the land.

Just recently, the Williams Family announced for the first time that they were not interested in relocating.

With this in mind and unpredictable cost and timeline that could come with the legal proceedings, we began to question whether there was an alternative site for the soccer stadium.

Around this same time, BBIF expressed interest in selling the property at the corner of Church St. and Parramore Ave. back to the City. Until that time, we had not previously considered the property to the west in the development of a new stadium.

Since this new opportunity arose, we began an intensive due diligence process and determined a better site for our new Major League Soccer stadium is west of the original location.

The corner of Church Street and Parramore Ave., where Carver Theater once stood, has a long history as the center of entertainment and a gathering place for the Parramore community.

As you know we voted last Monday to purchase the property from BBIF. With the sale final and a thorough due diligence process completed just last week, we determined that shifting the soccer stadium to the west was possible and actually presents a better opportunity for the City, the team, Faith Deliverance Temple and our residents.

We are entrusted to be stewards of the taxpayer's dollar and this new location will save the City money with a definitive schedule. This new site also allows for a larger footprint for the stadium and additional parking.

Commissioner Hill, I know in your 100 Days Plan, your priority is to providing more housing options and business opportunities. I, along with the entire City Council, share this commitment. As it turns out there was a silver lining to unsuccessful negotiations with the Williams Family...some real opportunity for redevelopment. The shift west, frees-up two large parcels for infill commercial development and affordable housing. Developments, Commissioner Hill, that will bring business opportunities, jobs and housing for Parramore residents.

I am excited that with this shift we are ready to move forward and begin construction of the new stadium!

As we finalize the design of the stadium, we are excited to announce we will incorporate elements of Parramore's history into the building, sharing the rich history of this site with the thousands who come to the new stadium.

To explain more of that vision, I would like to call on Phil Rawlins, Founder and President of Orlando City Soccer.