



December 1, 2017

City Manager Isaiah Hugley  
Post Office Box 1340  
Columbus, GA 31902

Dear Mr. Hugley,

On behalf of the Riverdale-Porterdale Cemetery Foundation, I am writing to clarify plans for the use of the former State Farmers' Market property on Tenth Avenue. The primary intention is to transform this area into a green space park connecting these three downtown cemeteries, and offering several amenities for the public.

First, be assured that no burial plots will be available for sale here. The foundation does have a long-range plan for a columbarium toward the east end of this area, where spaces will be offered for sale for the deposit of cremains. The intent is to place this structure in a garden-like setting, perhaps surrounded by a meandering camellia walk.

The foundation's plan also includes one covered pavilion which can be used for funeral services or other gatherings for Porterdale, East Porterdale or Riverdale Cemeteries.

Finally, and perhaps most important, ample parking space will be made available for use by our citizens visiting any of the three cemeteries.

It is important that you understand that the City of Columbus will have no financial responsibility for these proposed improvements, although a partnership could be established for development of the columbarium. The foundation will be totally responsible for the development and maintenance of this area. Since it was established in 2008, approximately \$300,000 has been raised in three funding campaigns, and we are confident that contributions and grants will again provide the means for bringing these goals to reality.

We appreciate your attention to this proposal, and look forward to its consideration by Council.

Sincerely,

D. Hal Averett  
Trustee