

Stadium Update

It appears that there has been no progress in the disagreement between Temple's administration and Temple's neighbors regarding the proposed "multi-purpose structure." The following are two brief statements from neighborhood leaders expressing their opinions about Temple's unwillingness to directly engage with members of the neighborhood.

Statements collected and transcribed by Dr. Wende Marshall, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Intellectual Heritage

According to Gail Loney, North Central resident and member of Stadium Stompers, Temple has not lived up to its newly issued promise to engage the community:

There has been no contact between Temple and the community. We see Temple at City Council when we are there to protest the Alpha Center or the Stadium. It has all been through city council. They are not talking to us ... They are still talking to developers however. Now they are trying to expand to Girard Avenue, by rezoning for the Labor Union Training Center. But the land that they are trying to rezone, only part is for the training center and it's not clear what else it will be used for. Clearly Temple is still busy trying to expand in new directions. Everything they do in this community is a form of bribery and everything they do is done without consulting the community. What they don't take into consideration is that everything they do affects the community. They think they don't have to engage us.

According to Jackie Wiggins, North Central resident and member of Stadium Stompers, Temple continues with its base disrespect for the community:

The thing that is bothering me is the arrogance of O'Connor. O'Connor recently said that building the stadium would be the best thing for the community. He said in an interview (<https://temple-news.com/patrick-oconnor-reflects-on-tenure-as-bot-chair/>) that it would add value to our lives because it would create jobs. Is Patrick O'Connor serious? How can he determine what would bring value to our lives without asking the people of North Central. Temple's lack of respect for people from the neighborhood continues to be the problem. O'Connor would never come up with a plan to build anything in his neighborhood without the full participation of his neighbors. Why are we any different? Since we are not at the table, Temple needs to stop planning for Black folks.