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June 25, 2026

Grove City City Council
4035 Broadway
Grove City, OH 43123

Dear Mayor Stage and Grove City Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in the City's evaluation of the future of community recreation opportunities in Grove City. We appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration as you contemplate both the YMCA's legacy of service in this community, as well as the best path forward to meet the long-term needs of those who live, work and invest in Grove City. **We believe this path is a formalized partnership with the YMCA, and the side-by-side financials we are sharing with you today show that unequivocally.**

The resolution approved by Grove City Council on March 24, 2026, requested that, "Administration come back to Council at the 4/20/26 meeting with an outline of the cost differences with the YMCA proposal from this evening and create a side-by-side comparison on a YMCA collaboration vs. a City only facility," with the motion amended to add that Council Chair of the Administration Committee be part of the comparison. In the days after that motion passed, the YMCA had financial numbers prepared and shared these numbers with Pizzuti in early April.

In the best interest of taxpayers — both today and in the decades ahead — we are sharing these raw numbers with Council in anticipation of the June 29th Special Council Meeting. The numbers compiled are based on the YMCA's longstanding experience and expertise building and operating multigenerational community centers in a variety of different partnership models, which we have most recently embarked on with Columbus State Community College. We fully respect and understand that this Council and Grove City Parks & Recreation desire to maintain operating control of the portion of the facility that hosts Grove City Parks & Recreation Department offices and programs. Therefore, the City + YMCA joint venture comparison numbers are based on a facility operated approximately 25% by Grove City Parks & Recreation Department, as opposed to the fully YMCA-operated model that was outlined in our presentation to Council and communications since.

The enclosed side-by-side comparison shows a significant financial value of a partnership with the YMCA, totaling \$40.15 million saved in the first 20 years alone in capital and operating costs. In fact, with the dollars saved from operations alone in the first 10 years (\$13.4 million), the City could increase public safety and accomplish any of the other desired capital projects with funding challenges outlined during your meeting on April 20, 2026. As you review this cost comparison and prepare for the decisions ahead, we ask you to consider the following: **What is the precedent for Grove City Council to overspend on a project by \$40 million?**

In summary,

- A City + YMCA partnership **saves significant taxpayer dollars** (\$40.15 million over 20 years) and minimizes taxpayer burden and risk in the decades ahead.



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- A partnership **frees up taxpayer dollars to be used on other City priorities and critical safety needs, allowing City Council to deliver more for residents.**
- **An expansion at Fryer Park offers residents an ideal, accessible and inclusive location** where all feel welcome, in comparison to Pinnacle Park. **The YMCA is also willing and able to partner to provide additional programs and services at Brookpark** as part of this partnership.

In addition to the side-by-side financial comparison, **we respectfully submit the enclosed signatures in support of a collaborative partnership** between the City of Grove City and the Grove City YMCA for a community center at Fryer Park. These signatures represent the many residents, families and community members who believe Grove City has an important opportunity to expand access to high-quality recreation, wellness, youth development and multigenerational programming through a partnership model that builds on an existing community asset. As Council evaluates the best path forward, we hope these signatures demonstrate meaningful community support for a partnership approach.

As we've expressed over the past months and years, **we desire a formalized partnership with the City of Grove City** to expand the foundation we started together in 1998 for multigenerational recreation for residents. This desire emerges from experience seeing the transformational impact of City + YMCA partnership models for the long-term viability, well-being and prosperity of cities and their residents.

We are grateful for the opportunity to be part of this important conversation and remain ready to work with city leadership to create a solution that serves Grove City residents today and for generations to come. If you have any questions about the numbers shared in this comparison, I would welcome your outreach.

Respectfully,

Tony Collins
President & CEO
YMCA of Central Ohio