

# Office of the Mayor



May 1, 2015

Superintendent Scot Prebles  
President of the School Board Mark Jantzen  
Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District  
6380 Mill Road  
Broadview Heights, Ohio 44147

RE: Stadium Drive Basketball Area Easement

Gentlemen:

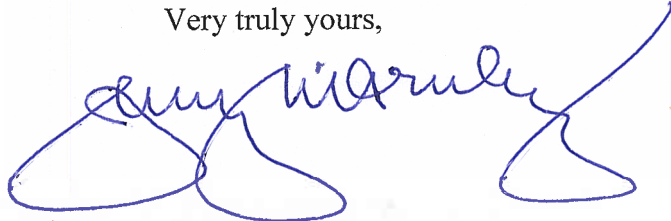
In 1988, I initiated discussions with School Superintendent John Smith to restore the School's Stadium Drive property tennis court area into basketball courts. In July of 1989, Council authorized the City to install basketball courts over the existing tennis court area at the total cost of the City. The School Board agreed and allowed the City an easement to convert the tennis courts into basketball courts. In the past 28 years, we have utilized this area, maintained it and assumed full responsibility. In recent years, we began to experience an escalation of problems with the basketball courts becoming a danger and possible detriment to our community and its residents – gambling, abusive alcohol and/or drugs, fighting and other associated incidents led to the City removing the basketball hoops and eventually the backboards. For over a year, we have not used this property for the intended use granted by the School District.

Therefore, we ask for your consideration in revising our current use of this specific area, converting it from basketball courts to a community garden under the control of the Brecksville Beautification Committee and the City Horticultural Department. It would be our intent to remove the interior asphalt area retaining the fence and the base of the fence around what would become a community garden. Small sections of the asphalt would be retained but for the most part a new soil base would be established and the land would be utilized for the planting of vegetables, flowers or any other type of plantings. The City's Horticultural Department will be located across the street, our new facility will soon be open for use and will include public restrooms and there is a water source in the immediate area of what would become the community garden. We believe this would be an ideal use for this area. It also will remove what has become the unsightly remnant of the former basketball courts.



Again, our request is to seek the approval of the Brecksville-Broadview Heights City School District to convert our current permitted use/easement for basketball court use to a community garden use. We would appreciate your consideration and will respect your decision. If you have any questions of me, or wish to discuss this personally, please feel free to call upon me at any time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jerry N. Hruby". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jerry N. Hruby  
Mayor

cc: City Council  
Beautification Committee Chairwoman Jane Zawacki