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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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No More Corporate Giveaways

Housing Justice Now Opposes Sweetheart Deal Handing City-Owned Property to Don Flow and Associates

Housing Justice Now urges the Winston-Salem City Council General Government Committee to vote no on the giveaway of city-owned park land to Don Flow, CEO of Flow Automotive Companies, and Jim Brammer, CEO of Concert Stuff Group, at its meeting on Monday, August 11, 2025.

While we are not opposed to the idea of an amphitheater in principle, we have serious concerns about the details of this proposal. The plan would allow one of the wealthiest businessmen in the city, Don Flow, and his business associates to lease multiple parcels of city owned land for only \$1 per month. This is effectively giving away valuable public land for nothing at a time when the city is cutting firefighters' benefits and neglecting urgent repairs to public housing.

Furthermore, as the site is directly adjacent to Crystal Towers, we are concerned that the project will create further displacement pressure on low-income downtown residents. Given the previous attempts to sell Crystal Towers, it's hard to ignore the risk that this amphitheater could be used as another step toward pushing these residents out.

What evidence has the Downtown Winston-Salem Partnership provided that this project will genuinely benefit the community rather than simply enriching private interests? City-owned land downtown is a scarce public asset. Instead of giving it away to a private developer for next to nothing, the city should prioritize uses that directly serve the community.

The proposal also forces street closures during events, which would strain an already congested part of downtown, limit access to small businesses, and disrupt the lives of nearby residents. These impacts will hurt the community far more than they help. Therefore, we strongly urge the General Government Committee to oppose this deal and vote NO on Item G-1.