



County of Hamilton

DUSTY RHODES
AUDITOR

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
138 EAST COURT STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45202

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Dusty Rhodes
County Auditor (946-4050)

RE: County Stadium Suites

County Auditor Dusty Rhodes has called on County Commissioners to turn back the "County suites" at each of the two riverfront sports stadiums.

In a letter to Commissioners today, Rhodes wrote: "My specific suggestion is to give the suites back to the respective teams to be put on the open market for sale and receive something else of value in return from each team in the process. For example, getting the teams to consent to carrying insurance at \$50 million rather than \$100 million could be gained. Or some other form of contract release could be achieved".

The Commissioners discussed the insurance reduction issue at yesterday's (Monday) staff meeting.

Rhodes said, "At a time when County employees are losing their jobs, taking pay cuts, being furloughed, experiencing health benefit reductions and the like; it is simply irresponsible and wrong to be giving away for free these assets by allowing people to use them at no cost".

August 11, 2009



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Board of Commissioners
Hamilton County
138 East Court Street, #603
Cincinnati, OH 45202

Honorable Board:

As you give consideration to opening discussions with the Bengals and the Reds with respect to possible money saving ideas for County government I urge you to seek to monetize the asset that is the "County suite" at each stadium.

At a time when County employees are losing their jobs, taking pay cuts, being furloughed, experiencing health benefit reductions and the like; it is simply irresponsible and wrong to be giving away for free these assets by allowing people to use them at no cost.

My specific suggestion is to give the suites back to the respective teams to be put on the open market for sale and receive something else of value in return from each team in the process. For example, getting the teams to consent to carrying insurance at \$50 million rather than \$100 million could be gained. Or some other form of contract release could be achieved.

At a time when the county seeks to divest itself of other real assets to save money and reduce ongoing expenditures to continue this giveaway of valuable public assets with its attendant administrative costs and questionable tax ramifications seems very wrong to me.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dusty Rhodes".

Dusty Rhodes