



THE COLUMBUS FOUNDATION

Statement from Doug Kridler, President and CEO, The Columbus Foundation

5:00 p.m., November 21, 2017

I've been a soccer fan my entire life and I've been a Crew fan from the very beginning. After watching the way in which the Crew and MLS have communicated with our local officials over the past several months, implying that our community leadership is not working with the team and we lack commitment to the Crew, I had had enough. I know firsthand that our public leadership and the business community has in good faith worked very hard to support and retain our team. It seems that despite all of our efforts, the Crew owner and the MLS seems determined to take our team to Austin, regardless of what Columbus brings to the table.

In the heat of emotion, I conceived of an idea this weekend that doesn't work for a variety of reasons. However well-intentioned, it was a mistake to approach it in this manner, given that it may have provided some false hope about the practicality of that solution.

I stand with the fans, players, sponsors, civic and business leaders who have worked so very hard to find a way to keep the Crew in Columbus.