



March 2021

Dear Valued Fairgrounds Stakeholders,

We hope this letter finds you well and healthy. Our last formal communication to you was to update you of Metro's intent to house and support Nashville's homeless at the Fairgrounds through the end of this month. The Board of Fair Commissioners received an update at its March meeting from Metro officials that the shelters will not be decommissioned by that date. The Office of Emergency Management, Metro's Department of Public Health and other Metro agencies involved in shelter operations will continue to monitor guidance from the Center's for Disease Control, vaccination and infection rates, and other metrics that influence the decision to transition this vulnerable population back to external support facilities, like the Nashville Rescue Mission. Due to the nature of the emergency, officials are not able to give the Fair Board a firm date by which the Fairgrounds buildings will be vacated; but, assured them that they were actively working on a plan recognizing our priority of safely reopening for events.

A reminder also that once shelter operations cease, we will need approximately 6-8 weeks to complete warranty work that has been postponed due to the pandemic, repair any damage, and clean/sanitize the facility.

We know that this pandemic and the partial closure impact businesses that rely on our venue. We remain interested in exploring outdoor options and can work with you to reschedule your event, if possible. For more information, please contact our events office at [scott.wallace@nashville.gov](mailto:scott.wallace@nashville.gov). Deposit refund requests may be sent to [maryann.smith@nashville.gov](mailto:maryann.smith@nashville.gov) (flea market) or [scott.wallace@nashville.gov](mailto:scott.wallace@nashville.gov) (events).

We greatly appreciate and value your business. We continue to pursue all outdoor opportunities, including resuming an outdoor-only Flea Market as soon as May, and have been in contact with appropriate Metro officials to work towards approval of a plan. We will keep you informed of developments as they arise.

Thank you for your business and support and hope you stay healthy in these unprecedented times.

Regards,

*Laura Womack*

Executive Director