

CITY TO EXPLORE ALTERNATIVE MANAGEMENT COMPANIES FOR COLISEUM

BLOOMINGTON, IL – After over 10 years of service, Central Illinois Arena Management will cease managing the U.S. Cellular Coliseum on April 1, 2016, or shortly thereafter. “I received a call from John Butler late this morning notifying me that CIAM would no longer be the management company for the Coliseum,” City Manager David Hales said. “This comes after months of negotiations wherein the City has focused on implementing new ‘industry standards’ into a potential new management agreement,” according to Hales. “I would like to personally thank John for his commitment to a smooth transition and for the work he and his team have done over the years, including starting the Coliseum’s operations,” Hales said. “I will be reporting to the City Council very shortly on our transition plan and next steps,” he added.

“The existing management agreement contained a right of first refusal for CIAM to continue managing the Coliseum for another five years, but it also required the parties to agree to the terms of the renewal,” according to Jeff Jurgens, Corporation Counsel. “For the last several months our focus has been on negotiating a contract that contains high benchmarks for performance and essentially restructures how the Coliseum is operated and managed,” Jurgens said. “We were always aware it was a possibility that CIAM may not agree to the new terms, so we will have new management options to roll out to the Council very quickly,” Jurgens added. According to Hales, “We anticipate a very smooth transition and the operations and events will continue as planned at the Coliseum.”

“I appreciate the work that John Butler and his team have done at the Coliseum, but also look forward to seeing what a new management team can offer the City,” according to Mayor Tari Renner. “This is an opportunity for the City to take a new look at the how the Coliseum is operated, bring more transparency, and implement a new approach to the City’s relationship with the Coliseum manager,” Renner added.

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