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Robert Cardillo, Director  
National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency  
7500 GEOINT Drive  
Springfield, Virginia 22150-7500

Director Cardillo:

The City of St. Louis is proud to be named the Agency Preferred Alternative (APA) for the next NGA west. We appreciate your confidence in our proposal and we look forward to the opportunity to continue our 70-year history together.

As you and your staff prepare to announce your Record of Decision in June, I wanted to restate our commitment to providing NGA a project site that meets all expectations and is ready for construction. I also want to reiterate our confidence that the City of St. Louis will best support NGA's critical national security mission. The benefits this urban site offers will be critical to the mission, employee quality of life and the ability to meet future employee recruitment needs.

We are working every day to ensure a smooth transition of property to NGA. The City has control of all 551 properties comprising the future City of St. Louis NGA site and are ready to close on all properties upon the execution of the sales agreement with NGA.

To address any concerns regarding security to and from the next NGA west campus, the City of St. Louis has had detailed discussions with NGA to develop security strategies with local law enforcement. A commitment has been made for a Memorandum of Understanding between the NGA Security Force and St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department, which would allow NGA concurrent jurisdiction outside the immediate site footprint to enable proactive protection. New investments in technology planned by the City will enhance security on top of the robust local first responder presence, of over 1,000 personnel, that already exists in the neighborhood. This provides both redundancy and 24/7/365 response capacity. It is also our expectation that new development projects planned adjacent or near the new site will continue to enhance safety by strengthening the community. One such location is on the former Pruitt Igoe site, where numerous environmental testing reports have indicated there are no radiative materials on site, and the site is suitable for this future development. The City will work with various developers to encourage urban uses in the area that will benefit both the neighborhood and NGA.

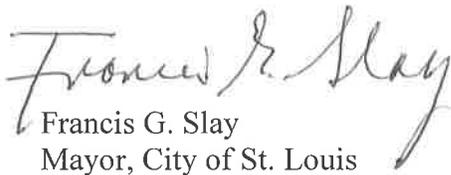
In announcing the APA, you stated that you were, “confident that we will build a facility in St. Louis that will be a remarkable home for us to master our craft and engage with our partners in a flexible, technologically advanced environment that is enticing to current and future generations.” The ongoing growth in our technology and innovation sectors will provide a great complement to NGA’s mission. In just the past few months, we have seen several examples of how these sectors are thriving:

- Cortex Innovation District continues to expand, the director of which wrote about NGA: “Fundamentally, site selection for a technology enterprise is driven less by physical infrastructure and more by intellectual infrastructure. That’s why the Cortex Innovation Community is located in the City of St. Louis, and why the NGA will benefit by being our neighbor.”
- Advertising firm, Momentum, recently announced it is moving its headquarters and employees downtown, with its CEO Chris Weil noting: “The growing energy and vibrancy of downtown St Louis is the perfect environment for us to create inspired, creative work that will continue to connect us and our clients with opportunities and people around the world.”
- LaunchCode recently opened a City office where it will offer coding training and other educational classes for the youth of today who will comprise the talent pool from which NGA will recruit its future employees.

From recruitment to security, and proximity to critical assets, we know that St. Louis provides the best location to meet the mission of the NGA. We also know that this is a large undertaking, one that we are committed to completing so we can turn over to NGA a clean, construction-ready site that meets the NGA’s security needs.

We look forward to our continued partnership, are absolutely committed to helping ensure NGA’s continued success, and stand ready to address any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

  
Francis G. Slay  
Mayor, City of St. Louis