



TO: Mayor Linda Gorton
Honorable Members, Urban County Council

FROM: 
Chris Ford, Commissioner of General Services

DATE: June 8, 2026

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding – Friends Towards Freedom Plaza
Triangle Foundation, Inc. and Friends Towards Freedom, Inc.

Request:

Request Council authorization for the Mayor to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Triangle Foundation, Inc. and Friends Towards Freedom, Inc. (FTFI) in association with plans to construct a public plaza directly adjacent to the recently commissioned statue, "Towards Freedom" in honor of renowned abolitionists and Lexington natives, Lewis and Harriet Hayden.

Purpose:

This MOU will guide the partnership between the Triangle Foundation, Inc., Friends Towards Freedom, Inc. and LFUCG Parks & Recreation for plans to construct and maintain the public plaza. As part of the MOU, LFUCG will facilitate access to site control of a small parcel of land (1,168 square feet) via acquisition from Fayette County Public Schools. The Triangle Foundation and FTFI will be responsible for capital costs to design and construct the plaza. The project site is near the intersection of North Limestone and East Fourth Street, at the Lexington Middle School campus.

Furthermore, LFUCG will lease the land parcel to the Triangle Foundation for \$1 per year. LFUCG will provide grounds maintenance of the public plaza, and the Triangle Foundation will be responsible for maintenance of the plaza's structural and hardscape amenities. In addition, LexArts is a key stakeholder and convening partner in this effort, particularly in resource generation and support for the volunteer-based Friends Towards Freedom, Inc. (formerly referred to as the Lexington Freedom Train Committee).

Budgetary Implication:

There is no budgetary impact associated with execution of Memorandum of Understanding.

File Number: 0527-26

Director/Commissioner: Conrad / Ford

