

Subject: RE: Information pertaining to KBC Advisors and Velocis
Sent: 7/7/2025, 4:56:00 PM
From: Laurie Jadwin<laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov>
To: Merisa Bowers
Cc: Jeremy VanMeter; Priya Tamlarasan; Council Members; Jeff Gottke

Good afternoon, Councilwoman Bowers,

Thank you for your email earlier today regarding an item on this evening’s Council agenda. As your message directly pertains to a project presented by Director of Economic Development Jeff Gottke, I have forwarded your email to him so that he is fully aware of the information provided.

While I appreciate your efforts to share relevant information, your message raises several serious concerns that I believe merit attention and clarification. Initially, the email lacks fairness and transparency to Council, City Staff, the companies involved, the Public, and the process. Second, this email has a chilling effect on economic development in the City of Gahanna.

Upon reviewing the Petition, I conducted additional research into the case, which—as you may know—is extensive and involves multiple parties and counterclaims. The Petition (5th Amended Complaint) spans 46 pages, yet the excerpts highlighted in your email reference only two paragraphs, without any accompanying context or mention of the defendants’ responses. As with any legal dispute, a complete and balanced understanding requires reviewing both the complaint and the answers filed. Highlighting isolated excerpts from complex litigation, especially in the absence of broader context, is grossly misleading and mischaracterizes the situation to all audiences, including our residents and business community.

After receiving your email, Director Gottke and I contacted representatives from KBC Advisors and Velocis to better understand the background of the lawsuit. The information they provided offers a significantly different perspective from that conveyed in your correspondence.

I want to be clear: my concern here is not to defend KBC Advisors, Velocis, or the proposed project. Rather, my concern is about how this information has been presented—both in terms of timing and process. You noted that you became aware of this information shortly after the June 23 Committee of the Whole meeting—nearly two weeks ago. However, neither Director Gottke nor I received any communication from you until just hours before the Council meeting. For matters of this magnitude, waiting to share potentially consequential information until the last minute does not promote transparency or collaboration, particularly when it involves businesses that have undergone extensive due diligence by both the City and JobsOhio. The City and JobsOhio always conduct thorough due diligence as part of the incentive application process to validate both the credibility of the applicants and the viability of the project.

Additionally, your email indicates that it was sent via blind copy to other Council members. As elected officials, we have a duty to uphold open meetings and public records laws. Blind copying recipients lacks transparency and the ability to share additional relevant information. I respectfully ask that you clarify the full list of recipients. Were any individuals or parties outside of Council also included?

Working together is critical to promoting open communication and shared understanding, especially when engaging on matters that affect public trust and private investment in our community.

LAURIE JADWIN
Mayor



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From: Merisa Bowers <merisa.bowers@gahanna.gov>
Sent: Monday, July 7, 2025 11:51 AM
Cc: Jeremy VanMeter <jeremy.vanmeter@gahanna.gov>; Priya Tamilarasan <priya.tamilarasan@gahanna.gov>; Laurie Jadwin <laurie.jadwin@gahanna.gov>
Subject: Information pertaining to KBC Advisors and Velocis

Councilmembers are blind-copied on this email to prevent inadvertent Reply All.

The attached Memo is respectfully submitted as additional information regarding ORD 0030-2025.

Very truly yours,

MERISA K. BOWERS
Gahanna City Councilwoman, At-Large
President of Council



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