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CITY OF BEACHWOOD ACQUIRES FAIRMOUNT TEMPLE PROPERTY

Beachwood, OH - June 18, 2024 – The City of Beachwood today entered into an agreement with Anshe Chesed Fairmount Temple (Fairmount Temple) to buy the temple’s property at 23737 Fairmount Boulevard for \$8 million. Both Beachwood City Council and the Board of Directors of Fairmount Temple approved the agreement in separate meetings today.

“This parcel of land right in the heart of our city isn’t just a piece of property; it is a canvas upon which we will paint the next chapter of Beachwood’s story,” said Mayor Justin Berns. “By purchasing this land, we, the city, hold the reins of its future. Rather than negotiating with a self-interested developer, most likely offering a binary choice, we will, instead, engage in a public process to determine its best use.”

Fairmount Temple, founded in 1842, has called Fairmount Boulevard home since 1957. The decision to sell the property is the result of the synagogue’s historic merger with The Temple-Tifereth Israel to become Congregation Mishkan Or. The new congregation will be located at the Jack & Lilyan Mandel Building on Shaker Boulevard.

“When the City approached us with interest in purchasing our property, we entered into the discussions with the shared idea the sale of the property to the City would secure the property’s future in a way that benefits the community we’ve been part of for close to 70 years and our congregation as we prepare to move into our next chapter as Congregation Mishkan Or,” said Michele Krantz, president of Fairmount Temple.

By selling the property directly to the City without listing it on the market, Fairmount Temple saved time and the additional costs related to hiring a broker. By owning the property, the City has the ability to help determine the future use, rather than if it was in the hands of a private developer who likely would seek zoning changes.

“Once we became aware of this opportunity, we carefully examined the costs and long-term benefits associated with this purchase. We asked tough questions of the administration and our experts, we discussed what paths we might follow if we acquire the property -- and it became apparent to us that this acquisition held immense potential for Beachwood,” City Council President Alec Isaacson stated. “Together, we will continue to shape the Beachwood of tomorrow, ensuring it remains a place where community and opportunity thrive in harmony.”

The city plans an extensive community engagement process before determining the future plans for the site. All options remain open at this early stage.

Built in the 1950s, the temple facilities included the main sanctuary, educational wings, and other communal spaces on 17 acres of land. The city officially takes ownership on July 30.