



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SPRINGFIELD, OH— (November 18, 2016)— The City of Springfield is proposing to sell its interest in the Littleton and Rue Funeral Home property to the funeral home operator. The well-known building on N. Limestone St. was formerly owned by Kathryn Littleton. When Mrs. Littleton died in 1986 her will left the property to the city. However, because Mrs. Littleton wanted the funeral home to continue in operation on the property, the city's ownership was made subject to a lease to the funeral home company. The lease payment is \$500 per month on the main property, an amount that the city characterizes as low. The lease continues into the year 2044.

The funeral home company, Littleton and Rue, Inc., approached the city with an offer to buy the main property and a small ranch house at the corner of Cassilly and Mason Streets. City Manager Jim Bodenmiller has recommended that the City Commission accept the company's offer to purchase both properties for \$440,000.

The contract that the company has offered to the city contains some additional terms. Because Mrs. Littleton had expressed her desire that the front lawn area remain in green space, the deed to the property will prevent building on the lawn area for 25 years. In order to resolve any title issues with regard to the green space issue, the city will pursue an action in court to clear the title.

Mrs. Littleton also stated in her will that the lease payments should go to support parks. The City plans to honor this wish by using the proceeds of the sale as a source of its support of National Trail Parks and Recreation District.

Littleton and Rue Funeral Home has operated at this site since 1938. The current owners; Rob Rue, Rob Kampman and Bill Hoelscher signaled their interest in purchasing this property in early 2015. Littleton & Rue officials provided the following statement regarding their interest in purchasing the property.

" We, the owners of Littleton & Rue Funeral Home, would like the ability to invest in the properties and facilities to stay effective in the changing climate of the funeral business. It would give us the flexibility to update the facility while maintaining the historical integrity of the property. We value the intent of Mrs. Littleton's will in maintaining the beauty of the property and its significance in the neighborhood and community. Recognizing that the lease with the city expires in 2044, we feel that it is in the best interest in the future of the business that we secure the property for future generations."