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June 28, 2011

Mr. Ken Mix, Planning and Community Development Coordinator
City of Watertown
Room 302
Watertown City Hall
245 Washington St
Watertown, NY 13601-3380

RE: Watertown City Center Sidewalk.

Dear Mr. Mix:

Per your guidance I am submitting this letter to you and the City Council to request a modification to the sidewalk we are installing which will connect the Watertown City Center project with Western Blvd. In the original approvals for the Hilton Garden Inn the City desired a sidewalk connecting the development with Western Blvd and at the time it was contemplated to be constructed along the southern side of the most southern entrance to this project. After reviewing the area that was supposed to get this sidewalk it was determined that the best path for a sidewalk connecting the project with Western Blvd was actually the northern side of the southernmost driveway and we adjusted the plans to reflect that when we recently submitted a new comprehensive plan for the pads in between the Holiday Inn Express and Western Blvd, and those plans were recently approved by the City Planning Board and also the City Council. It appears that although this new sidewalk location was shown and approved on the revised plans which were recently approved that I still need to work with the City to amend the approvals for the Hilton Garden Inn as those approvals showed the sidewalk on the south of the driveway and not the north.

It was my understanding that the City's main concern and desire was to have a connector sidewalk which would allow for the project to be connected to the Western Blvd sidewalk which would be accomplished with the sidewalk on the northern side of the driveway in lieu of the southern side of the driveway but because it was written in the original HGI approvals, and because the new approvals for the revised plan that I just received from the City council on June 20th did not amend the former approvals for the Hilton Garden Inn it is my understanding that the City Council has to officially bless this

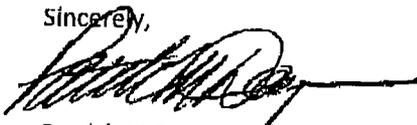
move. This sidewalk will accomplish your goals in a safe and proper manner and it is not possible to build the sidewalk on the south side of the driveway for several reasons.

There are several practical reasons why the sidewalk cannot be constructed on the south side and why it should be built on the north side of the driveway. The reasons are as follows: 1. There is a topographical issue with the eastern portion of the proposed south sidewalk as it has to go through a hill and on the north side it is level (see attached picture), 2. There are several utilities which are in the way of the sidewalk on the south side and there are none on the north side including a National Grid guy wire which is right where the sidewalk is going, TW Cable & Verizon who have buried wire where you would have to dig out the hill to do this sidewalk and there are no issues on the north side of the driveway, 3. A portion of the land needed to build the sidewalk is not owned by me and is partially Mobil and partially the NYSDOT, 4. The bus stop and majority of the businesses and people are on the north side of the project (we are working with Kathy to have a bus shelter installed in front of BWV) and it will allow safer more accessible pedestrian access to all the pads that will be developed between the Holiday Inn Express and Western Blvd such as Five Guys 5. Slopes and topography are more conducive to an ADA accessible sidewalk & 6 Maintenance will be easier on the North side.

The main goal was to get a safe and nice sidewalk connecting my project to Western Blvd and the sidewalk on the north side of the driveway accomplishes this goal and the south side is just not practical to get this goal accomplished. Thought this matter was resolved when we submitted the revised plans for those pads and that area and those plans were approved, but we need to get the City Council to actually amend the original Hilton Garden Inn approvals to allow this sidewalk on the north side to make it official. Our plan is to start building the sidewalk in the next couple of weeks and I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and if you can please expedite this request it would also be appreciated.

You can contact me with any needs, comments, thoughts or ideas at 1-315-436-6567.

Sincerely,



Patrick M Donegan

