



Office of the Executive

Office (518) 853-4304

Fax (518) 853-8220

20 Park St., PO Box 1500
Fonda, NY 12068-1500

January 28, 2015

Mayor Thane & Common Council members,

In regards to the recent Concordia Senior Community Project, city leaders need to set differences aside and focus on what is good for the citizens we represent. An economic development project of this magnitude must be embraced with enthusiasm and nurtured through collaboration to project completion. However, the recent squabbling has unfairly portrayed our efforts as a team and is counterproductive to achieving a successful outcome on this regionally significant project.

We all need to be mindful that what happens in the City of Amsterdam, good and bad, reflects on all of Montgomery County. We all desire to see successful economic development that benefits our community, yet the constant back and forth within city government is creating additional hurdles to overcome. Developers are constantly exploring new markets and additional opportunities and take notice of the attitudes of particular communities, when deciding to invest their capital. As you are aware this particular private sector project has been shepherded by the Montgomery County Business Development Center and quite frankly, our team will not allow this project to fail.

This \$30 million project is the largest private sector investment and job creating initiative in the City of Amsterdam in years. This project is designed to provide 162 units of senior housing, create 116 permanent jobs, more than 200 construction jobs and increase the real property tax base. We can ill afford to treat a project of this magnitude with anything less than our utmost attention. Yet, despite the importance of this initiative, city leaders can't agree on the funding needed for the extension of water and sewer lines, a necessity for the project to move forward. This, in spite of the fact that an agreement with conditioned Performance Bond can be secured that would offer ample protection and safeguards for the city's investment.

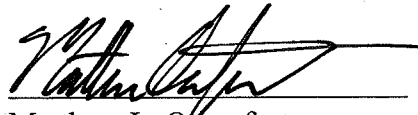
Above and beyond the economic benefits, the 162 units of senior housing are critical for many families who have an urgent need for assisted living accommodations close to home. Too many times, families must venture out of county for such services creating an increased burden

in what is often a difficult personal time. This project will without a doubt improve the quality of life throughout the county by providing the opportunity for seniors to remain closer to family and loved ones.

Certainly our county department of Economic Development and Planning is able, if needed, to step in and provide assistance via financing through the County's Community Development Fund, for the water and sewer lines for the Concordia Senior Project. However, I am urging you to make every effort possible to end these ongoing disagreements, help this project get off the ground in a timely manner and send a message that the City of Amsterdam is truly prepared to move forward. The future of our entire county will no doubt be brighter if you do.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Ossenfort", written over a horizontal line.

Matthew L. Ossenfort
Montgomery County Executive

cc: Ken Rose, Director, Montgomery County Business Development Center
Matt Agresta, Controller, City of Amsterdam