	<b>Matter Of:</b> <i>Y OF ALBANY</i>
	563 New Scotland Ave LLC per 11, 2019
M-F Rep	upstate New York *** <b>porting, Inc.</b> *** ortingNY.com
Office: 518-478-7220 Fax: 518-371-8517 Min-U-Script® with Word Index	Mail to: 5 Southside Dr., Suite 11 Clifton Park, NY 12065

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3	CITY OF ALBANY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
4	PUBLIC HEARING
5	RE: 563 New Scotland Ave LLC
6	
7	December 11, 2019
8	12:00 p.m 12:39 p.m.
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10	Industrial Development Agency
11	21 Lodge Street
12	Albany, New York 12207
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19	Reported By: Brenda J. O'Connor-Marello, CSR
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#### **RESCHEDULED**

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED PROJECT AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE RELATING THERETO

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing pursuant to Section 859-a(2) of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York (the "Act") will be held by the City of Albany Industrial Development Agency (the "Agency") on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2019 at 12:00 o'clock p.m., local time, at the offices of the Agency located at 21 Lodge Street in the City of Albany, Albany County, New York in connection with the following matters

563 New Scotland Ave LLC, a State of New York limited liability company (the "Company"), has presented an application (the "Application") to the Agency, a copy of which Application is on file at the office of the Agency, requesting that the Agency consider undertaking a project (the "Project") for the benefit of the Company, said Project consisting of the following: (A) (1) the acquisition of an interest in approximately 21 parcels of land containing in the aggregate approximately 3.65 acres located at 563 New Scotland Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-56), 583 New Scotland Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-67), 301 South Allen Street (tax map number 64.81-1-63), 313 South Allen Street (tax map number 64.81-1-64), 311 South Allen Street (tax map number 64.81-1-65), 319 South Allen Street (tax map number 64.81-1-66), 90 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-47), 92 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-48), 94 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-49), 95 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-70), 96 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-50), 97 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-37), 98 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-51), 99 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-38), 100 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-52), 101 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-39), 102 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-53), 104 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-54), 111 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-40), 116 Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-55) and Onderdonk Avenue (tax map number 64.81-1-72) in the City of Albany, Albany County, New York (collectively, the "Land"), together with seven (7) buildings located thereon (collectively, the "Existing Facility"), (2) the demolition of the Existing Facility, (3) the construction on the Land of four (4) buildings containing in the aggregate approximately 300,000 square feet (collectively, the "Facility") and (4) the acquisition and installation therein and thereon of related fixtures, machinery, equipment and other tangible personal property (the "Equipment") (the Land, the Existing Facility, the Facility, and the Equipment being collectively referred to as the "Project Facility"), all of the foregoing to constitute an approximately 188 unit residential apartment complex, commercial/retail space and approximately 255 parking spaces to be owned and operated by the Company and any other directly and indirectly related activities; (B) the granting of certain "financial assistance" (within the meaning of Section 854(14) of the Act) with respect to the foregoing, including potential exemptions from certain sales and use taxes, real property taxes, real estate transfer taxes and mortgage recording taxes (collectively, the "Financial Assistance"); and (C) the lease (with an obligation to purchase) or sale of the Project Facility to the Company or such other person as may be designated by the Company and agreed upon by the Agency.

## The Agency originally scheduled a public hearing for this matter to be held on November 13, 2019, but the public hearing was cancelled.

The Agency is considering whether (A) to undertake the Project, and (B) to provide certain exemptions from taxation with respect to the Project, including (1) exemption from mortgage recording taxes with respect to any documents, if any, recorded by the Agency with respect to the Project in the

office of the County Clerk of Albany County, New York or elsewhere, (2) exemption from deed transfer taxes on any real estate transfers, if any, with respect to the Project, (3) exemption from sales taxes relating to the acquisition, construction, renovation and installation of the Project Facility, and (4) in the event that the Project Facility would be subject to real property taxation if owned by the Company but shall be deemed exempt from real property taxation due to the involvement of the Agency therewith, exemption from real property taxes (but not including special assessments and special ad valorem levies), if any, with respect to the Project Facility, subject to the obligation of the Company to make payments in lieu of taxes with respect to the Project Facility. If any portion of the Financial Assistance to be granted by the Agency will follow the procedures for deviation from such policy set forth in Section 874(4) of the Act prior to granting such portion of the Financial Assistance.

If the Agency determines to proceed with the Project, the Project Facility will be acquired, constructed, reconstructed and installed by the Agency and will be leased (with an obligation to purchase) or sold by the Agency to the Company or its designee pursuant to a project agreement (the "Agreement") requiring that the Company or its designee make certain payments to the Agency.

The Agency has not yet made a determination pursuant to Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law (the "SEQR Act") regarding the potential environmental impact of the Project.

The Agency will at said time and place hear all persons with views on either the location and nature of the proposed Project, or the Financial Assistance being contemplated by the Agency in connection with the proposed Project. A copy of the Application filed by the Company with the Agency with respect to the Project, including an analysis of the costs and benefits of the Project, is available for public inspection during business hours at the offices of the Agency. A transcript or summary report of the hearing will be made available to the members of the Agency.

Additional information can be obtained from, and written comments may be addressed to: Sarah Reginelli, Chief Executive Officer, City of Albany Industrial Development Agency, 21 Lodge Street, Albany, New York 12207; Telephone: 518-434-2532.

Dated: November 26, 2019.

# CITY OF ALBANY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

BY: <u>/s/Sarah Reginelli</u> Chief Executive Officer Γ

1	APPEARANCES:
2	CITY OF ALBANY
3	INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
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5	TRACY METZGER - CHAIR
б	SUSAN PEDO - VICE CHAIR
7	DARIUS SHAHINFAR – TREASURER
8	SARAH REGINELLI – CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
9	MARK OPALKA - CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
10	CHRIS CANADA, ESQ AGENCY BOND COUNSEL
11	ANDY CORCIONE - Member
12	DOMINICK CALSOLARO - Member
13	AMY LAVINE - Member
14	MIKE BOHN - Member
15	TAMMIE FANFA - Executive Assistant
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1	MS. REGINELLI: All right. Good
2	afternoon, everyone. My name is Sarah
3	Reginelli, and I'm the CEO of the City
4	of Albany Industrial Development
5	Agency in connection with the project
6	that is the subject of this public
7	hearing.
8	Today we are holding this public
9	hearing to allow citizens to make a
10	statement for the record relating to
11	the involvement of the Agency with a
12	project to the benefit of 563 New
13	Scotland Avenue LLC, a New York State
14	limited liability corporation.
15	The project involves the
16	construction of 188 residential
17	market-rate apartments in four
18	buildings on 3.31 acres of land
19	totaling approximately 300,000 square
20	feet. The project will include common
21	areas, parking for approximately 255
22	cars, and approximately 15,000 square
23	feet of ground floor retail/commercial
24	space.
25	Copies of the notice of this

1	public hearing are available on the
2	table.
3	Now, unless there is any
4	objection, I'm going to suggest
5	waiving the full reading of the notice
6	of this public hearing, and instead
7	request that the full text of the
8	notice be inserted into the record.
9	I will also note that general
10	information on the agency's general
11	authority and public purpose are
12	contained in a separate statement, and
13	it will also be entered into the
14	record.
15	Before we start the public
16	hearing, I would first like to
17	introduce the project applicant and
18	ask them to make a brief presentation
19	with respect to the proposed project.
20	And I believe David Phaff wanted to
21	speak on behalf of 563 New Scotland
22	Ave.
23	MR. PHAFF: Do you have a
24	PowerPoint?
25	MR. CORCIONE: No, we do not.

1	MR. PHAFF: We submitted one.
2	MR. CORCIONE: Is it the same
3	one you had in the past? We can pull
4	it up.
5	MS. REGINELLI: David, is the
б	PowerPoint something that you would
7	like inserted into the record, or is
8	that something you'd like to go
9	through with the finance committee?
10	MR. PHAFF: We were ready to
11	present this before. I don't think
12	there's any substantial changes with
13	it, so by all means, it should be part
14	of it. This is more just of an
15	overview. It's not an in-depth
16	review.
17	MS. REGINELLI: Okay. If we
18	have it, go ahead.
19	MR. PHAFF: If you have it,
20	fine. If not, I'll make copies.
21	All right. So while we're
22	trying to find that, my purpose is to
23	give you a quick overview of the
24	project.
25	What we're trying to do is take

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1	a run-down block in the city of Albany
2	across from St. Peter's Hospital and
3	at the same time meet the challenge of
4	a 2030 plan to try to create a
5	desirable, walkable, residential and
б	commercial development.
7	We understand this is probably
8	the seventh time there's been
9	attempted development and the previous
10	six attempts have all failed.
11	What we've tried to do is listen
12	to all the previous comments made
13	before the orders on the appeals and
14	planning board and such, address all
15	of those that are viable and move
16	forward. And we've obviously received
17	approvals from both the BCA and the
18	planning board.
19	We are projecting 188
20	residential units, plus four overnight
21	guest rooms. We'll be bringing in a
22	quality dining establishment to a
23	neighborhood that's never had one in
24	addition to retail businesses and a
25	coffee shop. We are providing a total

1	of 255 parking spaces, 155 of which
2	will be in a heated below-ground
3	garage.
4	To meet the city's requirements,
5	and we've had numerous meetings with
6	the various agencies or departments,
7	we are installing the street the
8	infrastructure for all new street
9	lighting. We've pushed the building
10	back further from the property line
11	along New Scotland Avenue about 5 feet
12	to allow for cafe-style dining, much
13	in a similar fashion to the upper
14	Madison Gateway.
15	We've had to contend with
16	concerns regarding storm water, so
17	we've expanded our underground tank
18	piping and green roofs, and we now
19	have almost a million-and-a-half
20	gallon capacity at that level alone.
21	We've also eliminated the existing
22	discharge from the site to the
23	adjoining sites. And the new
24	discharge to the combined sewer has
25	been reduced from its existing level

1	as well. And as a matter of
2	reference, the Army Corp. has
3	submitted a letter stating there are
4	no jurisdictional wetlands on this
5	site, so we have nothing to be
6	concerned with there.
7	From a traffic concern, there
8	are two driveways on South Allen; and
9	the one closest to the intersection of
10	New Scotland Avenue, that will be a
11	two-way intersection excuse me,
12	both egress and exit with appropriate
13	signage, including electronic and
14	mechanical control devices. The
15	northernmost driveway on Allen will be
16	garage access only. We're trying to
17	discourage people from driving through
18	the actual site in order to cut out
19	any traffic signal on the corner of
20	South Allen and New Scotland.
21	Now, with the change in the
22	access on the northernmost driveway,
23	the sidewalks have been added where
24	we Oh, I can see where I am.
25	Okay. All right. So as an

1	orientation Would you like me down
2	here or over here?
3	MS. REGINELLI: As close to her.
4	MR. PHAFF: Okay. So a quick
5	orientation of what we've got for the
6	site, this is the building facing New
7	Scotland. This will be Onderdong, all
8	right. This is not a current
9	representation. We currently have
10	balconies in this plan. This will be
11	the view within the development. This
12	is Building B, which is running
13	parallel to South Allen, and this
14	would be our parking area. Building B
15	is in the back. It's a much lower
16	scale.
17	So to give you a quick
18	orientation, New Scotland, South
19	Allen. What I was just referring
20	to What I was just referring to was
21	the fact that for traffic access, this
22	will be two directions, will be some
23	sort of control here dictated by
24	traffic engineering in the city of
25	Albany. This driveway is now access

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1	to the garage alone. We've added
2	sidewalks wherever we've been
3	requested to do so to provide
4	pedestrian access through the project
5	and such and go from there.
6	MS. REGINELLI: And, David, for
7	the stenographer, the access points
8	you were talking about were off of
9	Allen Street?
10	MR. PHAFF: Yes. That is
11	correct. We have two access points:
12	One to the north, which is garage
13	only; and the one to the south, which
14	is two-way traffic. Okay.
15	Where were we?
16	All right. So we are also
17	handling crosswalks going up towards
18	Main; these will be electronic devices
19	as dictated by the city, and they'll
20	be on New Scotland.
21	By eliminating the additional
22	driveway area that we had here that is
23	to the north of the northmost driveway
24	which goes to the garage, we've
25	created additional green area which we

1	did not have before. Currently our
2	dedicated green space is now total
3	33 percent of the entire lot including
4	the green roofs. If we take the green
5	roofs out of the calculations, we are
б	over 20 percent.
7	Storm water we spoke about
8	earlier, and basically this is just
9	showing all the different things that
10	we were doing to achieve that
11	half-million gallon capacity.
12	And the next slide is not ours.
13	MR. CORCIONE: That's what I
14	had, so All right.
15	MR. PHAFF: All right. So the
16	USDO requires us to have 9.4 units
17	dedicated to affordable housing. Our
18	plan is to have 12 upon completion.
19	Projected affordable housing rents
20	would range to \$1,050 for a studio
21	apartment of 600 square feet to \$1,090
22	for a one bedroom.
23	We've addressed tenant
24	relocations from the buildings to be
25	removed from the site. We're

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1	providing them with ample notice of
2	the impending demolition to all
3	tenants. This will be no less than
4	six months in advance for tenants of
5	319 South Allen Street and an
6	approximate 18 months for the
7	remaining two buildings. Tenants will
8	then be given 90 days notice to
9	vacate.
10	There was a picture of the
11	courtyard between Buildings B and C.
12	As I mentioned before, we've
13	eliminated the parking in favor of
14	green space for the tenants to enjoy.
15	And Buildings B and C, that is the two
16	parallel to South Allen and
17	perpendicular to New Scotland, are now
18	located on a single foundation are, in
19	fact, one building.
20	Another thing we've done is
21	provided six vehicle charging stations
22	as in our plans. There are two on the
23	surface lot in the east of Building C
24	and the others in each of the two
25	underground garages. Depending upon

1	demand, these can be expanded to
2	additional space.
3	We are working with CDTA
4	regarding the expansion of the
5	bike-share program. We've allocated
6	additional space for a second rack as
7	warranted by demand and we've put it
8	wherever they feel is the best
9	location. We've also agreed with them
10	to install the concrete pads for a new
11	bus shelter on South Allen. We
12	offered to do so on New Scotland, and
13	they declined. They said that's a
14	dropoff site only.
15	We've also made a commitment to
16	participate in CDTA's universal access
17	program for tenants and employees of
18	any of the businesses in the
19	buildings; this will be based on a
20	total of around 300 tenants and retail
21	employees that are on site at
22	completion.
23	We'll also be providing
24	dedicated parking spaces for
25	car-sharing. There will be a heated

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1	central pickup and dropoff area for
2	Uber and Lyft services. One thing
3	we've tried to do is, wherever
4	possible, incorporated green or
5	environmentally friendly components.
б	The building envelope will
7	include thermal insulation and air and
8	filtration values that exceed those of
9	the New York State energy code. All
10	plumbing fixtures will be using lower
11	gallons per minute flow rates that are
12	required. All of our appliances are
13	Energy Star rated and all the paints
14	are low VOCs.
15	All exterior glazing meets
16	exceeds, rather, the minimum solar
17	heat gain coefficient values as
18	established by the New York State
19	energy code. All the lighting is
20	energy efficient LED, and the heating
21	and cooling systems efficiency and
22	SEER ratings will exceed minimum
23	values.
24	As far as the Post Office is
25	concerned, they'd provided us with a

1	template and specifications for a new
2	branch which is incorporated in the
3	design. We have no information
4	indicating they are not coming in at
5	this point. We've also offered them
б	the opportunity to occupy a temporary
7	portable facility during construction
8	as to provide a continuation of their
9	services to the neighborhood. The
10	temporary space will be located behind
11	the Key Bank property in what would
12	become the future open parking lot.
13	We're awaiting their answer and expect
14	them to remain as an on-site tenant.
15	So what we've tried to do is
16	meet the city's requirements as well
17	as the community's needs in improving
18	the quality of life in this
19	neighborhood and adhering to the 2030
20	plan. We are creating what will be a
21	highly desirable residential and
22	commercial opportunity across from one
23	of the city's largest employers, and
24	we are looking forward to working with
25	you.

MS. REGINELLI: Okay. 1 Thank 2 you, David. 3 I will now open this public hearing at 12:18 p.m. By way of 4 5 operating rules, if you wish to make a public comment, please sign in on the 6 7 appropriate sign-in sheet. I will then call on the individuals listed in 8 order. Please wait to be recognized, 9 10 then stand and state your name, 11 address, and affiliation for the 12 stenographer. Please keep your comments to five minutes so that all 13 14 present may have a chance to comment 15 for the record. I would also ask that if you 16 have submitted a letter to the IDA 17 within the past two hours, please 18 19 summarize that letter for the record as well as the board members in 20 21 attendance because obviously we would 22 not have had a chance to read and 23 process that information prior to 24 today. 25 A record of this public hearing

1	will be prepared and reviewed by the
2	members of the Agency in connection
3	with the consideration for the
4	proposed project. A copy of the
5	record of this public hearing will be
б	presented to the mayor of the city of
7	Albany as well.
8	Again, the purpose of this
9	public hearing is not to field
10	questions, but to solicit public
11	comment.
12	I will now refer to the sign-in
13	sheet to identify those who wish to
14	comment on either the nature and
15	location of the project facility or
16	the proposed financial assistance
17	being contemplated.
18	The first member of the public
19	on the sign-in sheet is Pete Sheehan.
20	Do you still wish to speak?
21	And please, if you could, stand
22	as close to the stenographer as
23	possible at the end of the table.
24	Thank you.
25	And again, your name, address,

and affiliation. 1 2 MR. SHEEHAN: My name is Pete I live at 32 Buckingham 3 Sheehan. Drive. And I submitted -- First off, 4 5 I submitted comments about this project to the -- to the planning 6 7 board, you know, back in the 8 summer/fall. So what I'd like to do, if it's acceptable, is to -- when I 9 10 back -- get back home is to resubmit 11 those comments to the IDA so that you 12 would have them within, you know --13 you'd have them by, like, tomorrow 14 morning. Is that acceptable? 15 MS. REGINELLI: They won't necessarily be part of the public 16 comment record that is being -- but 17 we'll bring them to the IDA board and 18 19 we'll distribute them to the board. 20 MR. SHEEHAN: Fair enough. 21 Thank you. 22 Like I said, I commented to the 23 planning board back in the summertime. 24 And what we requested for this project 25 in terms of the SEQR review, which is,

1	you know, of course part of part of
2	the notice, and we I had requested
3	a that the cumulative impacts from
4	the traffic from the traffic
5	impacts from this project as well as
6	some of the other projects nearby such
7	as the Palladium and the additional
8	construction out at DOCCS out on New
9	Scotland Avenue and other projects
10	within the city be considered.
11	Now, I know that's not your
12	you know, your issue here, but I just
13	wanted to give you a preface of what
14	my comments were in terms of looking
15	at the cumulative impacts of the
16	traffic impacts of this facility in
17	addition to the other ones. And under
18	SEQR, that is one of the I won't
19	cite, you know, the specific section,
20	but it mandates that cumulative
21	impacts be considered.
22	So the impacts of traffic of
23	this project are roughly, I think
24	they're estimated around 300 vehicles
25	or so, and then there's other vehicles

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1	from, of course, you know, the new
2	development at the Palladium, like I
3	said, at DOCCS, and excuse me, and
4	other facilities as well.
5	And so the neighborhood I
6	think it's fair to say and it's
7	accurate to say that the neighborhood
8	that this is going in, this project,
9	according to many, is unfavorably
10	being received. So you had the
11	traffic impacts which, you know, as
12	you might imagine, first and foremost,
13	are the ones that are raised in
14	people's minds.
15	In the letter that I'll send to
16	you, I raise the issue of, for
17	example, you know, pile-driving for
18	the construction of this right across
19	the street from a hospital. Has
20	anybody considered that and considered
21	what the impacts would be on the
22	patients who are there?
23	I have gone around in the course
24	of the last few months and collected
25	over 100 signatures, and if I had more

1	time, I could have collected probably
2	500 more from people in the
3	neighborhood who are very concerned
4	about this, and they think that this
5	process that this project is out of
6	scale. And so And the group is
7	called Well, it doesn't matter what
8	the group is called, but the
9	MS. REGINELLI: You have two
10	minutes left.
11	MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you.
12	So they're very concerned about
13	the traffic impacts and the scale of
14	this project. And it's not that we
15	are, I'll say it, the concerned
16	citizens near New Scotland Avenue,
17	it's not that we do not want
18	development, we would like a nice
19	infill development right where this
20	thing is planned, but we would like it
21	to be more to scale.
22	The USDO, as you probably know,
23	looks at two-and-a-half you know,
24	two- and three-story buildings, and
25	that's what's that is what is

1	currently in the neighborhood there.
2	This is five stories. And you know,
3	of course, it's going to block some
4	people, it's going to have some
5	shading in there and all those some
6	of those negative impacts. And so
7	what we're asking for is for this
8	thing to be scaled down to three
9	stories because that's what's in the
10	neighborhood. And that is not
11	objected to by people in the
12	community. But I just want to tell
13	you, if you go around and walk and
14	talk to people there in the community,
15	it is not well-received. And it's not
16	that the developer is a bad person or
17	it's not that we're newbies or it's
18	not that we don't want rental units in
19	our neighborhood. That's not the
20	issue. The issue is the significant
21	environmental impacts, you know, of
22	this project.
23	So the So I would like you to
24	consider these comments as you go
25	about, and I think as the notice

1       says, you have your SEQR review to         2       address in these comments in this         3       process, and I hope you take these         4       comments into consideration.         5       And thank you for letting me         6       talk about this.         7       Ms. REGINELLI: Thank you,         8       Mr. Sheehan.         9       The next on the list is         10       Councilman Judy Doesschate.         11       Ms. DOESSCHATE: My name is Judy         12       Doesschate. I represent the Ninth         13       Ward.         14       This particular development is         15       directly across from a part of the         16       Ninth Ward. And I have many         17       constituents who have talked to me         18       about their concerns about this         19       particular project.         20       I did I apologize for the         21       lateness of my written comments. I         22       have been having computer problems and         23       been swamped with other issues. I do         24       want to highlight a few things in         25       those comments. <th></th> <th></th>		
3       process, and I hope you take these         4       comments into consideration.         5       And thank you for letting me         6       talk about this.         7       MS. REGINELLI: Thank you,         8       Mr. Sheehan.         9       The next on the list is         10       Councilman Judy Doesschate.         11       MS. DOESSCHATE: My name is Judy         12       Doesschate. I represent the Ninth         13       Ward.         14       This particular development is         15       directly across from a part of the         16       Ninth Ward. And I have many         17       constituents who have talked to me         18       about their concerns about this         19       particular project.         20       I did I apologize for the         21       lateness of my written comments. I         22       have been having computer problems and         23       been swamped with other issues. I do         24       want to highlight a few things in	1	says, you have your SEQR review to
4comments into consideration.5And thank you for letting me6talk about this.7MS. REGINELLI: Thank you,8Mr. Sheehan.9The next on the list is10Councilman Judy Doesschate.11MS. DOESSCHATE: My name is Judy12Doesschate. I represent the Ninth13Ward.14This particular development is15directly across from a part of the16Ninth Ward. And I have many17constituents who have talked to me18about their concerns about this19particular project.20I did I apologize for the21lateness of my written comments. I22have been having computer problems and23been swamped with other issues. I do24want to highlight a few things in	2	address in these comments in this
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24 want to highlight a few things in	22	have been having computer problems and
	23	been swamped with other issues. I do
25 those comments.	24	want to highlight a few things in
	25	those comments.

1	I have attached to those
2	comments a restrictive covenant that
3	was filed on May 1st, 2017. That was
4	two weeks before the Common Council
5	adopted the USDO.
б	A significant issue during the
7	time that we were looking to adopt the
8	USDO and the zoning and the new
9	zoning map was the appropriate level
10	of zoning for these particular
11	properties.
12	These particular Some of
13	these particular properties zoned RM
14	now, previously were zoned R3A,
15	meaning that they were limited to a
16	maximum of two-and-a-half stories.
17	That is what the residents on South
18	Allen and West Lawrence expected would
19	be in force when they bought those
20	properties. Now we're looking And
21	then they were looking at the
22	potential of this being zoned as RM,
23	which would allow four stories. There
24	was no in between in the new USDO
25	between a two-family, one-family,

1	two-family, and then this
2	four-story-type building.
3	Since Mr. McCleskey wanted to
4	make sure he could develop a
5	three-story building on this property,
б	it was suggested that he would enter
7	into a restrictive covenant that would
8	make assurances to the residents in
9	the area that these buildings would
10	not these properties would not be
11	developed with buildings greater than
12	three stories for the RM area and
13	three-and-a-half stories for the MUNC.
14	As you well know, this far exceeds
15	that.
16	The restrictive covenant was
17	entered into and filed on May 1st, and
18	it was specifically done to induce
19	residents in the area to drop their
20	objection because of the zoning that
21	was proposed, and that is specifically
22	reflected in the terms of the USDO in
23	that I think it's, like, the eighth or
24	ninth provision, talks about the
25	restrictive covenant will only apply

1	if the Common Council adopts zoning
2	for MU for RM and MUNC for these
3	particular properties, and then they
4	were supposed to be limited to three
5	stories and three-and-a-half stories.
6	With that having been filed,
7	then that cleared the way for the
8	Council to adopt the revised zoning
9	map and the revised USDO with this
10	zoned in this manner, and we did so on
11	May 15th.
12	The covenant expressly runs with
13	the land, is binding on successor
14	owners, it's supposed to be reflected
15	in conveyances, and is in effect for
16	75 years. This development does not
17	comply with those terms, and that
18	makes this a very risky investment and
19	it is and it raises significant
20	ethical and moral issues in addition
21	to the legal issues.
22	Does this board now want to
23	incentivize the development of a
24	property by granting tax abatements to
25	something that is clearly in violation

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1	of the agreements that were reached?
2	I also want to note that this is
3	not compliant with a midtown plan. It
4	is barely within the boundaries of the
5	midtown plan, but this particular
6	property is not in an area that was
7	specified for the development of
8	apartments; instead, it talked about
9	encouraging homeowners to have
10	confidence in the quality in their
11	investments, in their private homes
12	and encourage more home-ownership.
13	This does not do that and, actually,
14	adversely affects the property values
15	of properties in the area.
16	And I want to just finally point
17	out that when when we were talking
18	about the Palladium apartments, there
19	was information provided in that
20	particular application that suggested
21	that the apartments were going to rent
22	for 2 \$1,200, starting at \$1,200.
23	The Albany Business Review has now
24	disclosed that those apartments are
25	renting for \$1,450, starting at

1	\$1,450. This is approximately \$3,000
2	more a year than was projected, over
3	\$300,000 more in profit for the
4	developer. And and I wonder
5	what whether you would have
6	approved that if you had the accurate
7	information about what is being
8	charged and what that tax abatement
9	schedule would look like.
10	I encourage you to be very
11	cautious in proceeding with regards to
12	this particular application and the
13	information provided. That
14	information pro forma was not
15	available to me, so I can't comment on
16	it, but I ask you to consider the
17	history of what happened with the
18	Palladium in terms of the
19	representations made.
20	I ask you to consider the
21	representations that were made with
22	regard to the development of this
23	property in that restrictive covenant
24	before the Council voted to zone this
25	as is. It's simply unfair. And this

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1	is an excessive amount of tax
2	abatement being granted that is unfair
3	to other landlords that are competing
4	with this.
5	I did make other comments in
б	my in my letter, but those are the
7	ones I wanted to point out to you.
8	Thank you.
9	MS. REGINELLI: Thank you,
10	councilmember.
11	Next we have Bob Fanna.
12	MR. FANNA: Well
13	MS. REGINELLI: Bob, could you
14	state your name, address, and
15	affiliation, please?
16	MR. FANNA: I am Bob Fanna. I
17	live at 40 Birds Hill Road in Averill
18	Park.
19	I am a rental property owner
20	with four three small apartment
21	buildings, five units and more. I pay
22	a non-homestead rate of tax, and my
23	properties have paid taxes for over
24	300 years of taxes without any tax
25	abatements or anything.

1	Anyways, the taxes are too high.
2	Everyone thinks the taxes are too
3	high, but my taxes and other rental
4	property owners pay an extremely
5	higher, 20 to 30 percent more
6	property, school, library tax every
7	year. And glad to contribute, but
8	Albany has a big problem with taxes
9	with so many state and federal and
10	city tax properties not taxed, with so
11	many new non-profits, so the tax base
12	is compromised because of all of this,
13	but in addition, the tax base is
14	compromised for and in comparison to
15	property owners like mine by the
16	Non-homestead Act of 1913; a long time
17	ago, over 100 years ago. A lot of
18	things have changed.
19	So there's unfairness there, but
20	what makes it even more unfair is the
21	number of apartments that are given
22	tax breaks, large excessive tax breaks
23	from the IDA with, you know,
24	understanding that it will help create
25	more apartments in Albany, which we

1	may need, I guess. How many do we
2	need? How many have you funded with
3	your PILOT programs? I would guess
4	it's over 3,000 new apartments in the
5	Albany area that are funded, and this
б	being another one, adding another 188
7	to it, not to mention the thousands
8	and thousands of new dormitories that
9	pay no tax. So there's a problem with
10	the taxes and the tax give-aways.
11	You Many tax give-aways are
12	given to corporations and wealthier
13	people over and over again; example,
14	the Palladium, and now less than a
15	year later the New Scotland. It's too
16	large, it's too dense, it doesn't fit
17	in the character of the neighborhood,
18	and it competes directly with one of
19	the major businesses in Albany that
20	pays the most taxes, and that is the
21	rental property business, especially
22	the small-business owners like mine
23	who pay the higher taxes while the new
24	competing rental properties come in.
25	And, of course, we lose our tenants.

1	We can't charge more for our
2	apartments. We contribute more than
3	our share to the tax base, and because
4	of the tax tax the new apartment
5	complexes like this one and like Park
6	South and like Sedridge (ph) and like
7	Eleftheria, who was here last time I
8	was here, saying that they need a tax
9	break to be extended because they
10	can't compete with the new apartment
11	complexes and all the tax breaks
12	they're getting.
13	So I don't agree with the
14	project. I think it's, like I said,
15	too big, too dense, and other things.
16	It's not wanted. It will definitely
17	affect the area, which is a business
18	area. There's no guarantee that the
19	Post Office will go in or any other
20	businesses. There doesn't appear to
21	be enough parking to have a successful
22	business there like a restaurant.
23	Being a restaurant-owner myself
24	previously, I know that parking is
25	very important. And I see that the

1	business district on New Scotland
2	Avenue, great project, Park South,
3	great project, but there's no place to
4	park. And there's no businesses that
5	can compare with the businesses that
б	were there in the neighborhood that
7	was there that was just taken away.
8	Anyway, so I worry about this
9	project. I don't believe it should
10	get any tax breaks, but I'm happy to
11	see it try to survive on its own like
12	all the rest of the businesses and
13	property owners like myself who, you
14	know, struggle to make a good profit
15	and hope that the city will be fair
16	and not put such big competition
17	against, you know, the people who have
18	been paying taxes for so long.
19	So I hope you can make a good
20	decision. I also think the length of
21	these PILOTs are way too long. Twenty
22	years or more, I'll be dead and gone,
23	and I won't see the benefits to the
24	tax base and I'll still be paying my
25	fair share.
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1	Anyways, thank you.
2	MS. REGINELLI: Thank you. Next
3	we have Ian Benjamin.
4	MR. BENJAMIN: Hi. Ian
5	Benjamin, 134 Jefferson Street.
6	I am generally in support of
7	this project. I think it's
8	appropriate for the neighborhood given
9	the height and density of the
10	projects, particularly because it's
11	given the height across from
12	St. Peter's Hospital, which is five
13	stories and more, and that it's on a
14	major transit artery as well as
15	putting a density of people within
16	walkable distance of a major employer,
17	and as such, it is abiding by and
18	aligning with the tenants of the USDO
19	for such areas.
20	Given that and the fact that I
21	do support incentives for this project
22	because I believe it will improve the
23	quality of life in the city, I,
24	nonetheless, would like to echo Judy
25	Doesschate and caution that this

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1	may tax abatements as they are
2	currently proposed may be excessive.
3	And I would like for a close look to
4	be taken at the formula and the
5	pro forma that was submitted for its
6	project, particularly as it pertains
7	to the rentals that have been
8	proposed.
9	I would also like to state that
10	the duration may be excessive for this
11	particular project. I believe that 15
12	to 20 years is, perhaps, too long and
13	that maybe the Board should be
14	considering something with regards to
15	the 10-year time frame, and, perhaps,
16	the property-owner at that point could
17	return to the Board for an extension
18	at such time, but for looking for a
19	two-part abatement beginning of 20
20	years in total at this point, I think,
21	is too much.
22	Thank you very much for your
23	time.
24	MS. REGINELLI: Thank you. We
25	have no one else on the list wishing

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1	to speak. Is there anyone else in the
2	room who has either changed their mind
3	and would like to speak or who would
4	like to sign up?
5	Okay. All right.
6	The notice of this public
7	hearing indicated that written
8	comments could be addressed to the
9	Agency. Currently we have three
10	written comments; they all came in
11	within the past two hours. We will
12	enter those into the record of this
13	public hearing. We will also make
14	sure that they are distributed and
15	addressed by the city of Albany
16	Industrial Development Agency as well.
17	At this time, if there are no
18	further comments, I will now close
19	this public hearing at 12:39 p.m.
20	Thank you.
21	* * *
22	(Whereupon, the proceedings
23	concluded at 12:39 p.m.)
24	* * *
25	

1	SHORTHAND REPORTER CERTIFICATION
2	STATE OF NEW YORK: COUNTY OF SARATOGA:
3	
4	I, BRENDA J. O'CONNOR-MARELLO, a certified shorthand reporter of the State of New York, do hereby certify:
5	That the proceedings within was taken before
6	me at the time and place herein set forth; that
7	any witnesses in the foregoing proceedings prior to testifying were duly sworn; that a record of the proceedings was made by me using machine
8	shorthand, which was thereafter transcribed under my direction and supervision; that the
9	foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony given.
10	Further, that if the foregoing pertains to
11	the original transcript of a deposition in a federal case, before completion of the
12	proceedings, review of the transcript [ ] was [ ] was not requested.
13	I further certify I am neither financially
14	interested in the action nor a relative or employee of any attorney or party to this
15	action.
16	Dated:
17	
18	
19	
20	1.100
21	$\mathcal{A}$
22	BRENDA J. O'CONNOR-MARELLO, CSR NYS License No.: 001088-1
23	
24	Notary Public, State of New York. Qualified in Saratoga County Commission Expires: April 4, 2022
25	Committee in DAPTICE - APTIL 1, 2022

# City of Albany Industrial Development Agency/Capital Resource Corporation 563 New Scottland Ave LLC

Date: December 11, 2019

# **SIGN-IN**

Name		Affiliation/Organization	Are you going to speak? Y/N
1.	Lebra Lambeh	abtoment for applicant	$\sim$
2.	David Roff	Rep. for Applicant	$\bigvee$
3.	PETE SHEEHM	SUSTADNABIZIT ADVISCOUN	
4.	Judy Doesselt	Comm lang	4.
5.	BOB PHANEUF	RENTAL PROPERTIES OWNERS	X
6.	Jan Benjamin	Speaking on 563 New Scotland	Y
7.	Michael Hipp	Jankon Companies	N
8.	Ryan Jankow	Jankow Companies	N
9.	Typtze Com	Howard Huma	N
10.	Murk Aronov, fr	Mrs-gury9KSLLC	XN

# Apartment development on New Scotland

Paul DeStefano <pauldestefano@howardhanna.com> Tue 12/10/2019 10:03 PM To: David Phaff <davidphaff@howardhanna.com> If this helps you can submit or read this at the meeting.....

David, I was raised on New Scotland Ave, just down from St Peters and over the years have owned an office and 5 investment properties on New Scotland ave...

The proposed development across from St Peters would be an outstanding addition/ upgrade to the area and a significant investment for the future of that area with tremendous benefits for the residents and merchants.also ,it will attract continued development and upgrading of the entire area...

Paul G. DeStefano,Emeritus,CRB,GRI Vice President Regional Leadership Team Licensed R E Broker New York Howard Hanna Real Estate Services HowardHanna.com

[Howard Hanna. Find out what YOUR HOME is really worth.] Howard Hanna. Find out what YOUR HOME is really worth.

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CITY OF ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL CITY HALL – ROOM 206 Albany, New York 12207

JUDY L. DOESSCHATE, ESQ. COMMON COUNCIL MEMBER 9<sup>TH</sup> WARD 380 NEW SCOTLAND AVENUE ALBANY, NEW YORK 12208 (518) 459-2889

December 10, 2019

Members of the Albany City Industrial Development Agency 21 Lodge Street Albany, New York 12207

# Re:563 New Scotland Avenue a/k/a New Scotland Village

Dear Members of the Albany City IDA:

I am writing regarding the application for \$19.9M in tax abatements for 563 New Scotland Avenue a/k/a New Scotland Village. I ask that the IDA Board:

 not approve any assistance for this project until the project is brought into compliance with the Restrictive Covenant (that applies to all 20 properties that are included in this development) which was filed in the Albany County Clerk's office on May 1, 2017 and covenants that:

> "building height is limited to a maximum of 3 stories plus subsurface parking....with the exception of the area fronting on New Scotland Avenue....and an area extending 198 feet from the right-of-way of South Allen Street which may be 3.5 stories plus subsurface parking or basement area;"

- 2. not approve any assistance until the project complies with the USDO or obtains the required variances from the Albany Board of Zoning Appeals;
- Not rely on the accuracy of the information provided by the applicant in making a determination regarding this application; and
- 4. Conclude that the application does not meet the criteria for a full tax abatement and only approve a reduced PILOT agreement that uses the full purchase price of the property as the basis for calculating the current assessed value of the property for real property tax purposes.

## The Project Should Not Be Approved Until the Project is Modified to Comply with The Restrictive Covenant The Project is a Risky Investment, Makes Title Uninsurable and Raises Significant Ethical and Policy Issues

As noted above, the 20 properties where this development is planned are subject to a Restrictive Covenant (See "Attachment A") that was executed by the current property owner and filed in the County Clerk's Office on May 1, 2017. This Restrictive Covenant limits the buildings on the 20 properties to 3 stories, except where they abut New Scotland Avenue and a portion of South Allen, where buildings are allowed to be 3.5 stories.

The Restrictive Covenant was made by Mr. McCloskey on behalf of "FM Promontory Capital, LLC, for itself and its successors and assigns" and expressly states it

"...shall run with the land and shall be binding upon all future owners....and shall provide that the owner and its successors and assigns consent to enforcement by the City of Albany." (Fifth para)

The covenant also provides that

"any deed or conveyance of the property, or any portion thereof, shall recite that said conveyance is subject to this Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions" (Seventh para)

and that it

# "shall expire 75 years after the adoption of Ordinance 26.31.17" (the Ordinance that adopted the USDO) (Ninth paragraph)

It is important to understand that this Restrictive Covenant was filed just 2 weeks before the USDO and revised zoning map were adopted by the Common Council on May 15, 2017 – and that the Restrictive Covenant was expressly entered into to so that these properties could be zoned as R-M and MU-NC although there was significant opposition to the zoning of these properties. The Restrictive Covenant was the result of an agreement reached between the City and Mr. McCloskey that would allow him to develop this property with a 3 story building, while protecting neighbors against the potential of a 4 story building being located in their backyards.

The terms of the Restrictive Covenant make the quid pro quo clear by expressly stating that the Common Council was considering Ordinance 26.31.17 that would repeal and replace the old zoning code and made the Restrictive Covenant contingent upon Ordinance 26.31.17 being adopted with the properties being rezoned as MU-NC and R-M. (Eighth paragraph)

Under the prior zoning code these same properties (i.e., the ones not abutting New Scotland Avenue) had been zoned Multi-Family Low Density Residential District (R-3A) which limited buildings to two and a half stories (2.5).

That is what the residents along West Lawrence and South Allen understood at the time they invested in their homes. It is understandable that those homeowners opposed the proposed new zoning code that would allow 4 story buildings to be built on their property lines – adversely affecting their enjoyment of their yards and likely significantly reducing their property values.

I note that after local outcry from residents in Guilderland and near Stonehedge apartments, the proposed zoning code for R-V was amended to protect single family residents from having apartment buildings more than 3 stories high within 500 feet. This Restrictive Covenant was a similar acknowledgement of the legitimate concerns of homeowners abutting a similar proposed development.

Since the proposed USDO eliminated several previously existing options for multi-family zoning that limited buildings to 2.5 and 3 stories, the only options for the previously zoned R-3A properties were R-1 (single family), R-2 (two family), or R-M.

Since Mr. McCloskey had represented that he only wanted to build a 3 story building in that location and did not want a reduced zoning classification in the new USDO, Chris Spencer suggested the filing of a Restrictive Covenant limiting buildings on these lots to three stories would address neighbors' concerns by protecting against 4 story buildings being built on their property lines while still allowing the properties to be zoned R-M to allow 3 story buildings in that location.

It is in this context that Mr. McCloskey filed the Restrictive Covenant on May 1, 2017 and neighbors and Common Council members dropped their opposition to the zoning of these properties as R-M and MU-NC, which cleared the way for the passage of the zoning map on May 15, 2017 that gave Mr. McCloskey the zoning classification he desired for these properties.

When we talk about "but for," – "but for" Mr. McCloskey's execution of the Restrictive Covenant, it is unlikely the properties would have been zoned R-2 or R-1 and this development would not have been allowed at all and be before the IDA.

Having reached that agreement, and having filed the Restrictive Covenant to induce residents to drop their opposition to the R-M zoning, and to induce the city to act to designate these properties as R-M, it is not only illegal for Mr. McCloskey and his successors and assigns to build in violation of that Restrictive Covenant, but it is unethical, immoral and repugnant to a civil society built upon the Rule of Law.

This raises several significant questions for this application and the IDA:

- 1. First and foremost, is whether the IDA wants to aid and abet an applicant and the co-signer on the application, in such unethical and immoral behavior and facilitate a violation of the Restrictive Covenant essentially be complicit in a scheme to defraud residents and government officials? Or should the IDA simply advise the applicant it will not assist in this project until the project complies with the Restrictive Covenant?
- 2. The purchase price to be paid to Mr. McCloskey is \$5.5M. A large part of the justification for IDA financing is due to the exorbitant purchase price. Does the IDA want to be in the business of helping facilitate such a large pay out to an individual who induced residents and elected officials to act by signing the Restrictive Covenant, but then is ignoring his legal obligations and the commitments he made to residents and elected officials solely to receive this \$5.5M benefit?
- 3. Should the IDA trust an applicant who is ignoring his clear legal obligation to abide by the terms of the Restrictive Covenant that runs with the land for 75 years?
- 4. Has the Restrictive Covenant and its terms been disclosed to the developer's bank? Was the subsequent attempt at modifying the terms of this Restrictive Covenant an attempt to conceal the true restrictions these properties are subject to? Is the bank aware of this Restrictive Covenant? Does the bank, or any reputable lender, want to aid and abet in the violation of the Restrictive Covenant; really, a violation of the public trust?
- 5. Since the proposed development is in clear violation of the Restrictive Covenant, the entire project is a risky investment

I suggest the only answer to these questions is for the IDA Board to advise the applicant the project must comply with the Restrictive Covenant before the Board will entertain entering into agreements with the applicant to assist the applicant financially.

## Variances Needed Affecting Investment-Worthiness of this Project

This project does not comply with numerous requirements of the USDO and does not have variances from the BZA for these deviations. At the time of the adoption of the USDO, Chris Spencer repeatedly made the argument that we needed to amend the USDO to help bring properties into compliance with the USDO to make them more readily sellable, or able to get loans for improvements. The following are examples of USDO requirements the project does not comply with and has not obtained needed variances for. This increases the riskiness of this project as an investment and raises the question of why the IDA would want to give tax abatements to a project that does not comply with these basic requirements:

# 1. The development has 3 buildings on 2 lots within the R-M Zone, although the USDO restricts each lot in an R-M zone to have only one principal structure.

USDO §375-4(A)(1)(f) states:

"In the *R-1L*, *R-1M*, *R-2*, *R-T*, and *R-M* districts, only one principal structure is permitted on a platted lot."

The plans for 563 New Scotland clearly label "Building B" and "Building C" as being on a single lot; "Lot 2." The application clearly states the project has 4 buildings: A, B, C, and D – three of which are on 2 lots - a clear violation of the above provision.

# 2. The development violates the clear requirements for increasing attractive green space and greenery in every new development.

The USDO provides that

"Any development or redevelopment site that triggers the requirements of this Section *shall ensure that landscaping, screening, and/or buffering achieves at least the equivalent of 30 percent lot coverage by vegetated material* to the greatest degree practicable."

This requirement is in the section for "Landscaping, screening and buffering." The purpose of this requirement was to prevent new developments from being "all buildings and parking lots" and ensure new developments enhance the aesthetic quality of the city – not detract from it.

The developer has readily acknowledged the project only has a little over 20% vegetative coverage at eye level – but stated that if you count the green roof, the vegetation is about 30%. Green roofs are not "landscaping, screening, or buffering" as defined in the USDO and is clearly not what was intended by this provision.

3. This project also appears to violate USDO provisions that: require 10% of the "site area" needs to be devoted to recreational space, require all replatted lots have street frontage (lot 3 does not), require developments to avoid slopes and sensitive areas such as wetlands, and possibly others.

## Questions about Information Provided in This Application

It is important to note that the Playdium IDA application and the one for this project and the history behind it raise significant questions regarding the accuracy and reliability of the information provided and the applicant's willingness to ignore his obligations under legally binding agreements.

Less than 2 years ago I warned this Board that the information and analysis provided by the developer to the IDA Board, BZA and the Assessor regarding the Playdium project had been substantially and materially skewed in an attempt to demonstrate that that project was not

financially viable without substantial IDA assistance. I noted that the pro forma information included in the application and in IDA meetings stated the developer planned to charge \$1200 for a 1BR and \$1400 for a 2 BR although the developer's own apartment comparison chart initially provided to the City showed that he planned to charge \$1250 and \$1600 for a 1 BR and 2 BR apartment respectively and that similar high end apartments rented for far more: ranging from \$1500 to 1700 a month.

We now know that my assertions and predictions were right.

The Albany Business review has recently stated that Playdium rents are "starting at \$1,450." This is \$250 per month more, or \$3,000 a year more per apartment. Assuming similar increases for 2 BR apartments, this represents an extra \$327,000 in revenue for the Playdium than the IDA approval was based on. This would increase his net profit by 158% to 534,319 a year – or an annual 15.4% return on his initial investment of \$3.457,800.

I cannot comment on the accuracy of the information provided in the current application pro forma sheets, because, the IDA has decided to prevent the public from viewing that type of information for the current application along with any material information upon which the 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluation was based. However, based upon the Playdium project experience, I encourage the IDA to be very cautious when relying on the information provided in making its decisions.

## The application does not meet the criteria for a full tax abatement. A Reduced Tax Abatement is Appropriate. The full purchase price of the property should be used as the basis for calculating the value of the property for current real property tax purposes.

The Board should conclude the application does not meet the criteria for a full tax abatement and should only approve a reduced PILOT agreement that uses the full purchase price of the property as the basis for calculating the assessed value of the property for current real property tax purposes for the following reasons:

# 1. This Application is NOT consistent with the Midtown Plan. The application should not be granted a point for being consistent with a Neighborhood Plan.

Staff has awarded a point for this under "Neighborhood Plan" apparently solely because the project is located within the Midtown Colleges and University Study (hereinafter referred to as the "Midtown Report"). But the project is not "consistent" with that report.

Page 8 of that study notes that

"The strong demand for student housing offers the opportunity to build facilities as mixed-use developments, offering one, two and four bedroom suits with convenience retail located on the ground floor....The recommended location for such a student housing development is within the *Education District sub-area* generally located between Washington Avenue, Lake Avenue, Madison Avenue, and Partridge Street."

This property is not located within that section of the Midtown-College and University Plan.

Nowhere in the Midtown Report does it say ANYTHING about building apartment complexes in this part of the New-Scotland Woodlawn neighborhoods. What the Midtown Report recommends for the New Scotland/Woodlawn Neighborhood where this project is located is systematic code enforcement, incentives for rehabilitation of existing housing stock, and the creation of a *homeownership assistance program* "targeted in the Pine Hills, Delaware, New Scotland/Woodlawn, and Beverwyck Neighborhoods."

In addition to various financial support for homeowners, the report notes that "to help build homeowner confidence and help assure potential homebuyers that their investment will be protected over the long-term" the City should implement an "Equity Assurance" program to assure home owners their property values would be protected. The program would compensate homeowners for any decline in property value.

This development does nothing to build homeowners' confidence that their investment will be protected over the long-term. Given this development's proximity to the single family homes along West Lawrence and South Allen, the development will decrease the values of those homes. Additionally, this development sets a precedent that will discourage homeowners from having confidence their property values will be protected because it makes it clear large buildings can be built anywhere – regardless of the USDO or restrictive covenants.

As such, it is inappropriate to any award points to this project for "Neighborhood Plan" because it is not consistent with the Midtown Report.

# 2. This Project should not be awarded points for being a Community Catalyst or Creating Jobs Because It Will likely Result in the Closure of the US Post Office

While the developer has indicated they have met the specifications for the Post Office to operate here, they readily admit they have had no direct conversations with the USPS regarding the actual continued operation and there is no commitment from the USPS to rent the space they have identified as being potential space for the USPS. It should be assumed that without a commitment, the Post Office will not continue to operate in this location.

The closure of the USPO in this location will have a significant adverse impact on the neighborhood, its walkability and vibrancy. People go in and out of the Post Office every minute of the day. It is a needed service and brings lots of people to that commercial area. Whatever businesses might be located in the new buildings, they cannot replicate a service of this level of importance that brings hundreds of patrons to this commercial strip every day.

The loss of the Post Office will also mean the loss of jobs in our neighborhood. Until the IDA Board has received written assurances from the USPS that they will continue to operate in this location, no points should be awarded for an increase in jobs or a community catalyst.

# 3. This Project should receive a reduced tax abatement, if any abatement at all.

What neighborhoods such as New Scotland and Woodlawn need are more properties contributing to the tax base to allow for more services and reduce the tax burden.

Aside from the high purchase price for this property – that will benefit one person – there is no reason this project should need a tax abatement. The Aspen and many other projects have been financially stable and successful with just a 7 year partial tax abatement – and the Aspen proved to be an embarassment because of the high profit margins for that particular development. Jim Googas only got a 5 year abatement starting at 50% and is a half block away. If those projects can be fiscally successful in uptown areas with a limited abatements, then why can't Mr. Jankow?

But most importantly is we have a lot of good landlords in this neighborhood who will be competing with this project – but without the tax abatement. These landlords are paying full freight on their taxes, and many at the higher non-homestead rate. In the meantime, for the first 10 years of the proposed PILOT, Mr. Jankow will be contributing a little over an additional \$100K a year in

city, county and school taxes for 188 apartments than the property pays now. It simply is not fair to grant one landlord an excessively huge tax exemption because he opted to pay a much higher price for a property than might have been fiscally prudent.

# 4. The full purchase price of \$5.5 million should be used for the tax abatement schedule when calculating the current cost of real property taxes.

This is just plain common sense.

If the IDA Board is going to take into consideration the full purchase price for the purposes of determining the developer needs a tax abatement, then the full purchase price should be used for the purpose of determining the current taxable value of the property.

Or, the IDA Board should subtract the difference between the purchase price and the assessed value in determining the project's need/eligibility for a tax abatement and conclude a tax abatement is an inappropriate use of the IDA's authority for this particular project.

The IDA should not be in the business of granting tax abatements to protect developers from their fiscally unwise decisions and that seems to be the consensus for this particular project.

## Conclusion

For the reasons above, the developer should not be provided with IDA assistance unless and until this project is brought into compliance with the Restrictive Covenant that was executed and filed specifically to induce the zoning of these properties as R-M and Mu-NC. This is legally, ethically and morally necessary if we are to be a society that respects and expects compliance with the Rule of Law. The absence of compliance with the Restrictive Covenant raises a morass of questions for other investors, lending institutions, and title insurers, that make this a risky investment that the IDA should not condone and support through tax abatement assistance.

In addition, the project does not meet IDA criteria for a full abatement because it does not comply with the Midtown Plan, is not clearly a net benefit to the community (i.e. a community catalyst), especially considering the likely closure of the Post Office.

The granting of the full abatement is also excessive and unfair to other landlords and homeowners who pay their full share of taxes. The proposed abatement amounts to the bailing out of investors who made poor decisions overpaying for a property – and then are being rewarded for their unethical behavior in ignoring the Restrictive Covenant that was executed explicitly so there could be any kind of apartment building on these parcels.

On behalf of my constituents and myself, I thank you for your time and consideration of the concerns raised in this letter, and for your service to the City of Albany.

Sincerely,

s/Judy L. Doesschate

Judy L. Doesschate, Member, Albany Common Council, 9<sup>th</sup> Ward

CC: Council Member Joseph Igoe



#### ALBANY COUNTY - STATE OF NEW YORK BRUCE A. HIDLEY COUNTY CLERK 16 EAGLE STREET, ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207

### COUNTY CLERK'S RECORDING PAGE \*\*\*THIS PAGE IS PART OF THE DOCUMENT - DO NOT DETACH\*\*\*



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FRANK MCCLOSKEY 18 LOCUST ST ALBANY NY 12203 THIS PAGE CONSTITUTES THE CLERK'S ENDORSEMENT, REQUIRED BY SECTION 316 a (5) & 319 OF THE REAL PROPERTY LAW OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

020 -

Bruce A. Hidley Albany County Clerk

### **DECLARATION of COVENANTS and RESTRICTIONS**

THIS COVENANT is made the first day of May\_2017, by FM Promontory Capital, LLC and having an office for the transaction of business at 18 Locust Street, Albany, NY 12203.

WHEREAS, FM Promontory Capital, LLC owns property at New Scotland Avenue and South Allen Street which includes the following 20 parcels:

> 64.81-1-37 64.81-1-38 64.81-1-39 64.81-1-40 64.81-1-47 64.81-1-48 64.81-1-49 64.81-1-50 64.81-1-51 64.81-1-52 64.81-1-53 64.81-1-54 64.81-1-55 64.81-1-56 64.81-1-63 64.81-1-64 64.81-1-65 64.81-1-66 64.81-1-67

64.81-1-70, together to be known as New Scotland Village;

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Albany is considering Ordinance No. 26.31.17 which REPEALS CHAPTER 375 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY (ZONING) AND REPEALS THE EXISTING CORRESPONDING ZONING MAP, AND ADOPTS A NEW CHAPTER 375 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY (CITY OF ALBANY UNIFIED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE) AND CORRESPONDING NEW ZONING MAP;

Page 1 of 4

C.D. FRANK McCloskey Herst Beng Henst Beng 18 LOCUST STREET ALBANY, New York 12203

WHEREAS, the Ordinance No. 26.31.17 proposes to rezone the Area of New Scotland Village into two areas which are to be Mixed Use – Neighborhood Center (MU-NC) and Multi-Family Residential (R-M);

WHEREAS, FM Promontory Capital, LLC desires to develop New Scotland Village into commercial buildings and multi-family residential buildings;

WHEREAS, if Ordinace No. 26.31.17 is adopted to rezone the Area of New Scotland Village into two areas which are to be Mixed Use – Neighborhood Center (MU-NC) and Multi-Family Residential (R-M), FM Promontory Capital, LLC proposes to restrict development as per covenants listed herein;

NOW, THEREFORE, FM Promontory Capital, LLC, for itself and its successors and/or assigns, covenants that:

First, building height is limited to a maximum of 3 stories plus subsurface parking or basement with the exception of the area fronting on New Scotland Avenue and extending 210 feet from the right-of-way line of New Scotland Avenue and an area extending 198 feet from the right-of-way of South Allen Street which may be 3.5 stories plus subsurface parking or basement area.

Second. No commercial uses will be allowed on the site beyond an area extending 210 feet north of the north right-of-way line of New Scotland Avenue

Third, along the northerly and easterly boundary, if the multi-family residential building height exceeds 2 stories above the subsurface parking or basement area (if any) shall be a minimum of 50 feet from the boundary of adjoining lots, excepting lot known as Tax Map Parcel No. 64.81-1-16 (lands now or formerly Goodman) where a setback of 30 feet would be allowed.

Fourth, if the multi-family residential building does not exceed 2 stories in height above the subsurface parking or basement area (if any) the minimum offset from the northerly or easterly boundaries shall be 15 feet.

Page 2 of 4

Fifth, this Declaration is and shall be deemed a covenant that shall run with the land and shall be binding upon all future owners of New Scotland Village, and shall provide that the owner and its successors and assigns consent to enforcement by the City of Albany;

Sixth, this Declaration shall be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Albany County;

Seventh, any deed of conveyance of the Property, or any portion thereof, shall recite that said conveyance is subject to this Declaration of Covenants and Restrictions;

Eighth, this Declaration shall be applicable to New Scotland Village only if Ordinace No. 26.31.17 is adopted to rezone the Area of New Scotland Village into two areas which are to be Mixed Use – Neighborhood Center (MU-NC) and Multi-Family Residential (R-M);

Ninth, this Declaration shall expire 75 years after the adoption of Ordinace No. 26.31.17.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has executed this instrument the

day written below. BE: Print Name: FRANCIS MCCLosky

RANCIS MCCLosky Date: MAY 1, 2017 Title: MEMBER

Page 3 of 4

#### STATE OF NEW YORK )

) s.s.:

)

### COUNTY OF

On the <u>IST</u> day of <u>MAY</u>, in the year 2017 before me, the undersigned, personally appeared <u>PRAVEY HCCLUB</u> personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual(s) whose name is (are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/she/they executed the same in his/her/their capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument, the individual(s), or the person upon behalf of which the individual(s) acted, executed the instrument.

DANIEL R. HERSHBERG Notary Public, State of Nev York Qualified in Albany County Commission Explana June 31, 20,19

Notary Public State of New York

Page 4 of 4



### Sustainability Advisory Committee

Ms. Sarah Reginelli, CEO City of Albany Industrial Development Agency 21 Lodge Street Albany, NY 12207

December 5, 2019

#### Dear Ms. Reginelli:

As you are well aware, the effects of climate change and global warming are all around us and appear to be continuing unabated. Toward the goal of addressing climate change and global warming, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a Special Report in September, 2019 which stated that limiting the increase in global temperature to  $1.5^{\circ}$  C ( $2.7^{\circ}$  F) above pre-industrial levels will require a significant reduction in global greenhouse gas emissions within the next 10 years. The report warned that without urgent action the planet will reach the crucial threshold of 1.5 degrees by as early as 2030, precipitating an increased risk of extreme drought, wildfires, floods and food shortages for hundreds of millions of people.

The corresponding effects upon the City of Albany were documented in the Albany 2030 Plan which states that: "In Albany, a warmer overall climate can result in many adverse impacts, such as more intense and frequent storms, sea level rise along the tidal Hudson River, and an increase in high heat days and heat waves. Climate change is expected to cause an increase in precipitation during the winter months, with more precipitation falling as heavy downpours rather than light rain or snow. Tropical Storm Irene, which hit the region in September 2011, demonstrated that intense storms can have tremendous impact on Albany economically and socially."

With this in mind, in 2015 Albany partnered with the originator of the Five Cities Energy Plan in 2015, the New York Power Authority (NYPA).<sup>1</sup> According to NYPA they "established the plans to comprehensively reduce energy consumption citywide." They further explained that: "The Plans are intended to be roadmaps to help the cities collaborate with governmental agency partners, institutions, utilities, communities, NGOs and the private sector to achieve the following goals: strengthen the reliability and resiliency of their energy infrastructure, catalyze clean energy investment and economic development, reduce the cities' energy consumption and related expenses, contribute to a cleaner environment, and enhance quality of life within the cities."

1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Build SmartNY, Five Cities Energy Plans, City of Albany, by the NY Power Authority, Issued January, 2015

## **IDA - CITY OF ALBANY**

#### PUBLIC HEARING:RE: 563 New Scotland Ave LLC December 11, 2019

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