



September 9, 2013

Hon. Scott Johnson, Mayor  
Commissioner John Franck  
Commissioner Michele Madigan  
Commissioner Chris Mathiesen  
Commissioner Skip Scirocco  
City of Saratoga Springs  
474 Broadway  
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

RE: PROPOSED LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CITY CENTER FOR PARKING GARAGE

Dear Members of the City Council:

We wrote to you in January with our concerns that there needs to be a greater public process for the planning and design of the proposed parking garage that the City Center Authority wishes to build on the City-owned land between Maple Avenue and High Rock Avenue. We have expressed our concerns and suggestions numerous times to the City Center Authority, but have been disappointed with the lack of substantive progress on the issues we have raised.

The proposed City Center parking structure would be a significant project for the City's downtown, and as such warrants serious consideration. The project has been conceived without a public planning process, and would benefit greatly from a process that encourages public review and discussion. Because the issues related to the use of a substantial downtown City-owned property for a parking garage were never thoroughly vetted publicly, questions remain as to the benefits that will accrue to the City and downtown.

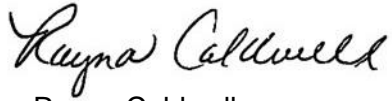
It is our understanding that the City is about to approve a land lease agreement with the City Center Authority that would enable the Authority to build a parking garage on City-owned property. We would like the City Council to add special conditions to the proposed land-lease agreement that would ensure a public process and consideration of the required development standards.

Attached is a set of recommended conditions we would like the City Council to require as part of the proposed land-lease agreement.

These conditions are not costly or time-consuming for the Authority. They do not bind the Authority to any specific improvements. These conditions merely require the Authority to conduct a public process and to address significant planning concerns that are in the public interest.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns regarding this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rayna Caldwell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rayna Caldwell  
President, Sustainable Saratoga

Attachment

cc: Mark Baker, City Center Authority