

Rice, David

From: McSorley, Peggy
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:14 PM
To: Rice, David; Donlon, Dan; Kanarkiewicz, Robert; Marcella, Chris
Subject: FW: Student Life Center, SUNY Cortland

Ms. Allen lives at 34 Pearl Street

-----Original Message-----

From: Irene Patricia Allen [<mailto:ipwetz@gmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, March 12, 2012 3:05 PM
To: McSorley, Peggy
Subject: Student Life Center, SUNY Cortland

Dear Ms. McSorley:

I received a letter dated 02/27/12 addressed to "SUNY Cortland Neighbor" which I found to be insulting. It suggested I write to you concerning any questions I might have. No one connected with the above project lives anywhere near the Pearl St. neighborhood where the SLC is proposed to be built. Therefore, they will not experience the considerable impact of air, noise, light pollutions; parking problems; student disruptions; increased littering, vandalism and theft. It's not their property values that will decline nor will they experience sleep disturbances due to the Center's late hours (up to 2 AM on some evenings). Good neighbors do not treat each other with such disregard. Why not relocate the SLC to another proposed site further removed from Cortland City neighborhoods?

It was mentioned by a SUNY SLC Committee member that the 60+ parking spaces, which will be eliminated by this project may be replaced by a parking lot in front of the tennis courts "if funding allows". Pearl St. is already inundated by student parking during the day and in some cases illegally overnight. As the street is quite narrow many residents find backing out of driveways hazardous. In fact one accident occurred recently. How can SUNY justify a \$56 million SLC project without providing the necessary parking? Is this being a good neighbor?

Over a 2+ year period Pearl St. residents have repeatedly informed the SUNY Committee of the above concerns to which there has been no verbal or written response.

In addition, a continued lack of consideration has been shown by repeatedly giving an insufficient 1or 2 day notice (or no notice) of public meetings concerning this project. The last meeting had been relocated from the Park Center to a location where parking was unavailable.

I ask you would you want SUNY Cortland to be your neighbor?

Respectfully,
Irene P. Allen

From: [Jo Schaffer](#)
To: [Jo Schaffer](#); [McSorley, Peggy](#)
Subject: RE: Cortland and the Student Life Center (SLC)
Date: Thursday, March 15, 2012 6:24:15 PM
Importance: High

Ms McSorley,

I am a long term resident of Cortland, a retired member of the SUNY Cortland faculty, a member of the City of Cortland Planning Commission, former member of the City of Cortland Historic board and member of other civic, community and environmental preservation organizations.

I am also a resident of the 4th ward...the ward immediately adjacent, to the east, of the proposed site. As you can see, I am properly credentialed to write with purpose and good intent about the SUNY proposed SLC slated to be built on the former Chugger Foot ball field (not just a running track as is written in your latest environmental statement.)

I have for over ten years been a party to the planning ideas coming from the SUNY CF and the SUNY Cortland administration. At first, the idea, of Mr Wright, had been set aside as a frivolous addendum to the campus which was and is in need of additional classroom space. The president at that time stated there were far more important educational demands on available construction funds. It wasn't until Mr Wright proposed the addition of classroom that the project took on a life of its own. Spurious and deceiving as that was, SUNY CF fell for the plan.

At one of the earliest community/college meetings, the architects proposed 6 acceptable sites for the SLC. One was dismissed out of hand and the other five still remain viable alternatives to the present selection.

The community of intelligent citizens was INSULTED by the president's claim that the choice was predicated on his assumption the "Students would not walk an additional few yards to exercise (is walking not an exercise???)". ...that the campus needed to be linked by an enormous building which would actually visually divide the campus.

That being said...the reasons for building a such a structure already a laughing matter for most residents, the sum of committed funding an insult to taxpayers who will have to foot the bill when the bonds come due was an additional thorn in the city's side.

Now the real part of the problem comes forth. The site chosen is a CEA..a certified environmental area, a wellhead protection site and within a short distance from the THREE wells (not the One well you state). Your plans for protection are not fool proof, nor are they a 100% guarantee that our water supply will be held harmless. Any plan with the slightest threat of contamination is unacceptable. We don't play loose with our water. And have you noticed that if something happens to our water, it happens to the college as well.

Additional water recharge and surface pressure from the southern end of the water works has been demonstrated to increase flooding out the northern end causing severe residential damage in the second ward. Increased impervious coverage by the SLC will only exacerbate the situation.

Your reports on the siting only indicate to me and others that you and your architects/engineers have never even walked the site. If they have, they have made false statements and erroneous judgements as to the topographical elements or even written outright lies.

As for the pollution elements to the neighboring residential area, your study admits there will be air and odor pollution from a fast food french fry factory serving 300 mouths. Noise, pedestrian and auto traffic will increase substantially on streets already burdened with heavy student usage. The building is scheduled to be open from before 6 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily. Our city zoning asks that lighting adjacent to residential areas be off by 10 pm., that there be sufficient buffering, etc. The height of the building will block sun light over the adjacent homes. They will never see another sunset.

I will not even try to discuss the lack of sensitivity or aesthetics of your design as being totally inappropriate adjacent to a residential area.

I can only say that this building, and the manner in which you have ignored the city and its residents' concerns over its construction, lends itself to a total dissolution of any positive town/ gown relation which may have been built over the past years.

I, along with many other of my neighbors and friends, urge you to relocate this building to any of the two other approved sites to the south and /or west of the present Physical education building.

SAVE your good name and save our water and our community.

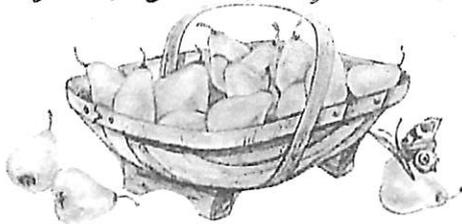
Sincerely
D. Jo Schaffer

Ms. Marilyn DiJohn



Dear Ms. McSorley,

I am writing to you in reference to a letter received by me from Christopher P. Marcella as of 2-27-12 regarding the Student Life Center at the Sunny Coastland Campus. I would like to



Comment on the proposed project.

Having lived in my home on Pearl Street for 41 years I believe my present way of living will be greatly changed by a proposed large Student Life Center in my backyard.

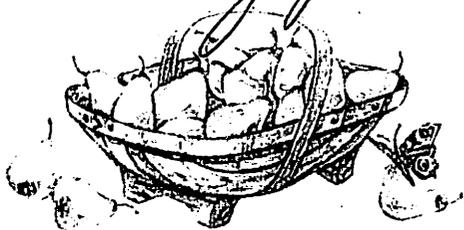
I will no longer see a sunny field. My sun will be gone as will the atmosphere that I now have.



Ms. Marilyn DiJohn

Pearl Street is
now a quiet street
which will be
changed due to the
noise and traffic
the building will
produce as the
students go to and from
the building.

Will they park on



P120-1590

Pearl St? Of course they
will. The street is
narrow and makes it
difficult to park on it.

I am also concerned
about flooding and
the effect the building
will have on our water
supply.

I hope you will consider
my comments. The building
should be built elsewhere.

Sincerely,
Marilyn DiJohn

March 9th, 2012

I live on York Street in Cortland. It is one of the streets along with Pearl Street that will be forever changed with the construction of the SUNY Cortland Student Life Center. I oppose the construction of the building along with all my neighbors on Pearl and York Street unless some compromise can be obtained to move the building farther away from our neighborhood.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter that appeared in The Cortland Standard recently. It says it all. I hope you will read it. The only thing that was left out in the letter was the loss of property values that the construction will cause.

Marilyn Palmer

March 14, 2012

your opinion

the impact of technology on society

I am in the middle of writing a paper on the impact of technology on society. I have been thinking about this for a long time and I want to share my thoughts with you.

First, I think that technology has had a huge impact on the way we live. It has made our lives easier in many ways, but it has also changed the way we interact with each other.

For example, social media has allowed us to stay connected with our friends and family, but it has also led to a sense of isolation. We are always connected, but we are not always present. This is a double-edged sword.

Another area where technology has had a significant impact is in the workplace. Automation and artificial intelligence are changing the way we work, and this is a topic that is still being debated.

Overall, I think that technology is a powerful force that is shaping our future. It is important for us to think about how we want to use it and what we want to achieve with it.

I would love to hear your thoughts on this. Do you think technology is a net positive or a net negative for society? Let me know what you think.

— Your Opinion —

A monument to institutional arrogance

To the Editor:

The *Cortland Standard's* page one article of Feb. 14, "An Investment in Fitness," certainly represents strenuous exercise on the part of its reporter and editors. A less balanced exposition of the SUNY Cortland Student Life Center would be difficult to imagine.

The college's public relations director could hardly have done a better job of presenting one side of this controversial issue. In fact, the idea of the college even needing a PR person to sell this idea to a skeptical public is a pretty good indication that there are a host of problems with it.

There are so many issues with the scale and community impact of this misbegotten project that one scarcely knows where to begin finding fault, but let's start by stating that there is clearly a need for students to have opportunities for healthful recreation. With that said, this proposal in its present form is a monument to institutional arrogance. It is far beyond what any rational person would think necessary for a medium sized college. Climbing walls? Indoor golf? Is this a state college or a four-star resort? The college insists that such a palace is necessary to beat the competition for students. Why the worry when the college has already been selective enough to reject a large majority of applicants?

The price tag alone should raise eyebrows. Fifty-six million dollars is a huge expenditure for such a project, given that SUNY Binghamton did essentially the same thing for twice the number of students at less than one-fourth the cost, and that UMass

did likewise for nearly four times as many students for \$6 million less. Is this a prudent expenditure of taxpayer dollars by an institution whose focus is supposed to be on academic excellence? It is especially galling when impoverished rural and small-city school districts in this state are going begging for resources just to meet the most basic of staffing and program needs.

Beyond that lies the unknown environmental impact and more certain community character implications of this development. The enormous footprint of the building cannot possibly contribute to the wellbeing of the aquifer recharge area that lies beneath. Stormwater management in an already flood-prone area of the city could be problematic. The height of the center (some 50 feet) is equal to a five-story building. Not something that neighbors will want to view from their backyards! Traffic, noise, litter, public safety and parking problems will certainly increase.

In spite of vocal community opposition to the location and scale of this project, the college has ignored such concerns and has never seriously entertained scaling it back and/or finding a different, less objectionable site. Yet the college has requested designation as lead agency for the purpose of environmental review, a designation very much akin to the proverbial fox guarding the henhouse.

A student is quoted in the article as saying that "Cortland is sports and fitness." Funny, but I thought there was a higher purpose to a college education.

Betty Powell
Cortland

March 8, 2012

State University Construction Fund
State University Plaza
353 Broadway
Albany, N.Y. 12246

Dear Mr. Peggy McSorley:

Subject: SUCF Project No. 04339, Student Life Center, SUNY Cortland

I am very concerned about the proposed site for the building which would be located very near to our water supply and so close to our neighborhood. The project may have a negative impact on our water supply and our neighborhood.

I believe that the proposed action will result in the generation of traffic significantly above present levels. The site is now a field (was a football field). The building will attract many people. A large center will require many deliveries to service the many activities such as a 300 seat dining room, food deliveries, garbage pick-up, etc. The building will be open 7 days a week - Mon. - Thurs. 6 a.m. - 11 p.m. and from 6 a.m. until 8 a.m. on Fri & Sat. nights. It will close earlier on Sunday.

Will the proposed action adversely affect groundwater? Improperly treated stormwater has the potential to impact water quality in the adjacent Cortland Water works.

I understand that there will be objectionable odors, noise or vibration as a result of the proposed action. Exhaust odors

from the kitchen will be generated from 7:30 a.m. to 11 p.m. - Mon. - Sat. and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday.

I understand that the Project Construction will occasionally exceed ambient noise levels.

The building will be 146,724 (total gross) square feet, 50 feet tall at the highest point and have 3 loading bays plus parking areas. This very large building will impact our neighborhood. The college feels that the Student Life Center is a good idea. Building at the proposed site - next to the Water Supply and a city neighborhood - is a bad idea.

we often hear that: "no one can guarantee that the project will not have an impact on the water supply and the adjacent neighborhood at a 100% level of certainty."

We can be certain that the project will not adversely impact our water and neighborhood if it is moved to one of the other four (4) sites considered. I would suggest that they consider the site near the Park center.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very Truly Yours,
Vincent J. Picerno

Mr Vincent J Picerno
29 Pearl St
Cortland NY 13045-2403