

To: Kenneth Kovalchik, Town Planner, Town of Guilderland

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Subject: Pyramid Expansion

My name is Josh Kowalski and I have been a resident of The Town of Guilderland in the Village of Altamont since 2003. My wife and I are raising 2 boys in the same "Capital District" area we have spent our entire lives, because it is home. For far too long, rising taxes, stagnant wages, and overall short sited thinking have all been causing residence to leave the area. A direct result tends to be strip malls, malls and department stores are shuttered up and left vacant with no plans for further use.

Pyramid Corporation should be admired as they continue to make their "Crossgates" property a destination for the residence of the Capital Region and beyond. Online retailers, while convenient and easy, have made owning and operating retail businesses more and more difficult. Pyramid has been forward thinking and has added services that separate themselves from the online retailers, such as restaurants, spas, party centers for kids, comedy clubs, adventure sites for kids, and most recently a hotel. These "attractions" drive visitors to the mall and stimulates the business of the retailers inside. They are also used as social meeting places which helps to build the fabric of our community. Pyramid's projects should be embraced as a positive step for preventing the site of another vacant mall.

As a Guilderland resident, I am in full support of the Rapp Road Residential/ Western Avenue Mixed Use Redevelopment Project. I feel supporting this project is a good economic decision as it is creating an estimated 150 jobs and good tax benefits for the Guilderland School District.

Sincerely

Josh Kowalski

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