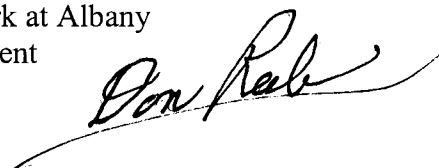


McKownville Improvement Association  
Founded in 1926

To: Dr. Karen Hitchcock, President, State University of New York at Albany  
From: Don Reeb, McKownville Improvement Association President  
Subject: Sandy Zimmerman and 1257 Western Avenue  
Date: August 2, 2002



On Wednesday last I received a call from Sandy Zimmerman informing me that the University was about to purchase the property at 1257 Western Avenue, the "blue house", for the construction of a building for the retired faculty, the Oasis program and the Fort Orange project. I informed him that the construction of a non-residence was not going to happen there

The 2,500 or so residents of McKownville have spoken loudly and often about that property. The "blue house" is presently zoned residential and has a residence occupying the site, albeit one that the present owner has failed to adequately maintain. (See the enclosed letter to the Town). From Fuller Road to the City line the northside of Western is residential, with a few exceptions, and the block that contains 1257 has several historical--middle 19th century--buildings. It is the intention of the residents, including active and retired faculty members at the University who reside in McKownville, that as much of McKownville remain residential as possible. Moreover, McKownville has had an agreement with the Town for over thirty years that no parcel zoned residential will have its use changed to non-residential use anywhere in McKownville. The Town recognizes that non-residential use is already too extensive at this end of Western Avenue.

About six weeks ago I had a conversation with Bill Reese and Don Cohen at the retired faculty UUP luncheon concerning 1257 Western. Bill indicated that the University was going to use the site for a building for retired faculty. I informed them that there were significant objections to its use as anything other than a residential site and as president of the Association I would have to lead the fight to prevent changing the site use. Sandy told me that he was unaware of that conversation.

Sandy Zimmerman became less than pleasant when I informed him of the community's objections to changing the use of the Western Avenue parcel and when I indicated that I had no interest in seeing the plans for the building he became abrasive and hung up.

The University has maintained a facility that welcomes McKownville residents and we look forward to continued good relations with the University.

A note from a retired faculty member: It is surprising that Bill Reese claims that office space is needed by the retired faculty. As you may know, twelve faculty members have retired from the economics department since 1965 and though each was offered an office in the department I am the only one to have kept a (half) office for more than a year or so after retirement.