

McKownville Improvement Association
Organized in 1926

To: Senator Neil D. Breslin
From: McKownville Improvement Association (contact, Don Reeb)
Subject: University Construction of an Office Building in McKownville
Date: August 8, 2002

The two accompanying memos explain the basis of the conflict between the neighborhood association and the State University at Albany. The site being discussed is presently zoned residential and is surrounded by residences, some single family, some two families, and one is a group (community) home.

The neighborhood boundaries are coincident with the McKownville volunteer fire department boundaries in Guilderland and include about two dozen streets in smaller areas and 3,000 residents with Stuyvesant Plaza as its "downtown". Directly south of Stuyvesant and centered on the Christ Lutheran Church are the streets of Highland, Country, Oak and Shady. The second area is that north of Stuyvesant and consists of streets such as Providence, Mercer and Warren. The third area is that closer to St. Margaret Mary's but still in Guilderland, with the streets being Brookwood, McKown, Westlyn, Ayre, Dillenbeck, Arcadia, Hillcrest and the newest area, Woodscape, a community of townhouses and single family dwellings. The fourth area, that bordering the University, includes Knowles, Waverly, Norwood, Glenwood, Parkwood and Elmwood. The oldest homes were built when the Great Western turnpike was built, around 1800. About a third or so of the homes were built after WWI for the returning veterans while about sixty percent of the homes were built for the veterans returning from WWII, the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. There are few multi-family dwellings and few college students residing in McKownville though there are numerous university employees who are residents. McKownville is the type of neighborhood that children who are raised here move back into it when the time comes for them to buy a home.

As you know, it is difficult to keep a neighborhood of welcoming residences. If it is well maintained, then others see the welcoming ambience of the neighborhood as a wonderful place to construct a non-residential building. Of course if the neighborhood is poorly maintained, neither families nor others wish to locate there. The McKownville residents have worked for nearly eighty years to maintain McKownville as a welcoming residential area. We do not want more non-residential buildings in our neighborhood.

It is our hope that the University refrain from construction of office and/or classroom buildings in our neighborhood and that you can intervene to prevent the construction.

We appreciate your willingness to look into this for us.

To the attention of Amanda Vennard Fax-426-6807