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Don -

I wanted to bring you up-to-date on something that happened today. At about 11am when I got back to my desk after a meeting there was a message on my voice mail from Steve Janak. He asked if I would be available for about twenty minutes in the afternoon to talk about the parking garage issue.

Given what I've been reading in the emails that have been swirling around I really didn't want to get in the middle of the fray. I called your house then and again around noon but you weren't home. I didn't leave a message because I wasn't quite sure what message to leave.

So I decided I might as well meet with him and see if I could gather any useful information. When I called to let him know I could meet I made it clear that I had not spoken with you and really was not in a position to speak for the Association, but that I was willing to listen and bring back any useful information they could provide.

When I got to Steve's office, Tom was also there along with a neighborhood resident. Steve introduced me to him but I can't remember his name. He lives on Warren St. and has a thick accent - maybe Polish? It may be that he also works there in the building - I'm not sure how it was that he got involved.

Steve gave a brief synopsis of his and Tom's view of how the parking garage issue has progressed from last July. Then talked about a meeting (that I had not attended) where they apparently reviewed with our group the plans that were being submitted as part of the SEQR process that showed three possible locations for a parking garage. They mentioned that Ed Brooks was at the meeting and that he had said that a garage next to Providence St. would be O.K. with him as long as it was "as beautiful as the rest of the buildings on the complex".

Steve appeared to be going through this history for the benefit of the fellow from Warren St. who really did not appear to have much of any understanding of how this issue has developed up until now. Steve framed the current situation as being one of frustration for he and Tom with regard to the current discord, given how open and inclusive they feel they've been with the Association in discussing their plans and soliciting our input.

I wasn't really sure what they wanted from me. Then Steve started talking about how they wanted to work with people from the community that were "reasonable". O.K. - now I got it. Steve worked a few angles, hoping I

might say something that could be construed as implying that I thought you were behaving otherwise.

The meeting ended pretty quickly when I made it clear that you were the President of the Association and that any involvement I might have on this issue would be as a member of the Association of which you were President.

So, I'm sorry to report that nothing constructive came out of the meeting. I did point out that since last July another thing that had happened, which Steve had not mentioned in his review, was that the Harriman Traffic/Transportation Study had been published and that it was recommending coordination between Nano, SUNY, Harriman and Patroon Creek on traffic and transportation issues. I suggested that we (the Association) were hopeful that this would happen and that, perhaps, the ideas you had recently put forward were inspired by that objective. But Steve and Tom didn't see it that way. They are taking the position that the Association had, essentially, blessed the idea of a garage behind Providence and was now going back on that promise.

I told them that I would let you know what had been discussed, so that's what I'm doing now. Feel free to call or come by if you want to know anything more about the meeting. The only way I can characterize what happened is as an attempt to undermine you as spokesperson for the Association. They appeared to be fishing for something they could use to imply that there was dissention in the ranks. When it was clear that wasn't going to happen, they seem to lose interest.

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