

McKownville Improvement Association Founded, 1924

To: President George M. Philip
University at Albany, State University of New York
1400 Washington Avenue
Albany, New York 12222
From: Don Reeb, president, McKownville Improvement Association
Subject: Public Meeting, September 17, 2009
Date: September 22, 2009

There are many things that are great about the State University at Albany, and one of these is Assistant Vice President for Physical Facilities John Giarrusso.

John conducted the Thursday September 17, 2009 public meeting, discussing new student housing, with skill and kindness, even though some of the remarks made by audience members might have been considered rude and even personal attacks. He gave concise answers to the questions asked, clarified inquiries about the use of parcels near the site being discussed, made sure that all persons were given the opportunity to speak, and generally conducted the two-hour discussion with a professional demeanor that might have been difficult to maintain for leaders with lesser skill. Afterwards, I saw several persons thank John for the meeting—neighbors appreciated his good work

I know you value John or he would not be in the position he has been appointed to—but I wanted to second your choice. Having once served as chair of the University Budget Committee, I would have interacted with him and his office had I still been in that position. It almost makes me regret retirement to have missed the opportunity to work more closely with John.