

McKownville Improvement Association

Founded 1924

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
New York State Capital Building
Albany, New York 12204

April 27, 2015

Dear Governor Cuomo:

Recently a dozen homes on Loughlin Street and on Fuller Road were purchased. The homes are in the City of Albany quite close to Guilderland and the neighborhood of McKownville. (A map of the area is enclosed).

The homes were purchased by Field real estate, acting for Columbia Development (this latter part is not proven but that is what the homeowners were told). The sellers were told by the Field real estate broker that the homes were to be replaced with a SUNY Polytechnic Institute (SUNY Poly) building.

What happened here was "block busting" of a different type.

The SUNY Poly abuts many of the Loughlin Street homes and all homeowners were aware that the College—with its multi-billions in buildings and equipment---has tremendous economic power. The homeowners were frightened.

Sellers were required to sign non-disclosure agreements. Prospective sellers were told that their neighbors had sold and that they would be stranded if they did not sell.

The Loughlin Street neighborhood was a stable mixed-race neighborhood developed after the second WW. It included both retirees and college professors. When did it become in the public interest to destroy a middle class mixed race neighborhood for a college dorm?

The 400 hundred or so students at the SUNY Poly may need a dorm. CDTA (the bus authority in the Albany area) is planning to create a rapid bus service to the SUNY Poly campus in the next few years. It will travel through the Harriman campus. That could be the site for the SUNY Poly dorm. It would be about 10 minutes away from the college.

The secrecy of the expansion plans—and the non-disclosure agreements-- created fear in the area, including McKownville. Neighbors realize that their \$180,000 homes could be swallowed easily by the SUNY Poly. The total value of the 900 homes in McKownville is much smaller than the \$20 billion invested on the SUNY Poly campus.

When the State University of New York at Albany was under construction in the 1960's it was asked by the McKownville community to promise it would not expand into the neighborhood. The promise was made and it has been kept. The SUNY Poly was once part of the

University at Albany and it is reasonable to presume that it is bound by that same promise-----
to not expand into McKownville.

That is the request being made herein. The SUNY Poly should promise that it will not
expand into McKownville.

It is recognized that the SUNY Poly is a great success. Utica, Rochester, the re-use of the
former Union Station in Albany and the Albany campus are monuments to the success of the
SUNY Poly and its leadership.

However, people have a right to feel secure about their homes and their neighborhood.

Please, inform the SUNY Poly that it must not expand into McKownville.

Sincerely,

Donald J. Reeb
President
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