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Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 11:27:04 AM

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Subject: Communication to the Hudson City Council

Communication to the Hudson City Council regarding HHA Housing proposals.

Dear President and Council members,

As a single parent I have had difficulty attending City Council meetings as they occur right at dinner time, so I thought I would send this to express objection to the current expansion plans being proposed by HHA. I live at 224 State Street, less than half a block from Bliss Towers. From 2013 – 2017 I spent considerable time at Bliss Towers, as I was in a relationship with someone who lived there and I am very familiar with the living conditions of HHA residents. The conditions I observed were very poor and can be described as prison like, degrading, isolated and separate from the surrounding neighborhood.

I am all for making housing more affordable, the cost of rents in Hudson has escalated and something should be done to regulate and reduce housing costs, but this is separate from HHA. As a public housing authority, HHA represents the interests of applicants for government housing, not those of existing Hudson residents. The Common Council represents the interests of local constituents, it doesn't represent the interests of a public housing authority, nor should it be driven by an externally motivated, affordable housing social agenda. Construction projects should only be approved by the Council if they serve the interests of Hudson's existing residents.

In my opinion, Bliss Towers should be replaced with a small scale development that provides upgraded housing for it's existing residents. Many HHA units are currently empty, and a well designed group of two and three story townhouses would provide enough units for their residents with much improved living conditions. It would also be more in keeping and blend into the character of the surrounding neighborhood which is primarily comprised of two story residential homes. It would create an environment of inclusiveness for the HHA residents, rather than isolating them.

Permitting HHA to more than double the size of it's already over-sized Bliss Towers would have negative impacts on the surrounding community. Lower State Street is already burdened with enough street traffic and parking congestion as it is. The dust, noise and traffic congestion caused by a massive construction project will have a

negative impact for years to come and the resulting traffic from doubling the size of the HHA population will be permanent.

An apartment complex of this size may make sense in Poughkeepsie or Albany, but not in Hudson. Hudson is a small rural city of approx. 6000, surrounded by a small suburb, farms and conservation land. Now is the opportunity to create something smaller in scale that is restorative and new, rather than repeating and expanding upon the mistakes of the past.

I would urge the Council to vote no for Restore NY Funding for HHA. Hudson is revitalizing quite well on it's own. Funding for HHA will not restore or revitalize anything but the pockets of developers who are waiting to cash in at the expense of our community. HHA needs to scrap this project and come up with a new plan.

Tim Slowinski

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