From:	Mark J ████████████
Sent:	Monday, September 23, 2024 5:10 PM
To:	Municipal Hall
Subject:	Civic Redevelopment

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Dear Mayor and Council and Civic Redevelopment Team,

I received a copy of the Civic Redevelopment information package at the Economic Zoning open house last week. If new municipal facilities are being designed, then I want to offer a suggestion about what NOT to do by considering the example of the firehall at 1512 Keating Cross Road. The short message is: stay focused, keep it simple, and don't waste space.

The firehall on Keating fails on all three points. What should be a simple and obvious entrance, with ample, spacious parking marked clearly and accessible from different directions and with direct pedestrian egress to the door, is instead complicated by cramped, limited parking in the front public area, too narrow to turn around easily, plus the incomprehensible addition of a child's playground and a bizarre, space-wasting alpine gardening landscape obstacle. Good civic architecture should be friendly, purposeful and functional, not unfriendly, limiting, superfluous and irritating. Already, the negative tone for interaction is set before any human contact is made.

Recognizing the shortage of local meeting space, somebody had the foresight to incorporate meeting rooms at street level, but instead of putting them near the public-facing entrance, they are situated at the rear, in an area presumably not originally intended for public use. Again, the tone is not open or friendly. Whenever public events are held, somebody has to post signs and stand out front and direct traffic in order to compensate for the lack of intuitive design.

The back of the building is the back of the building. Was the original purpose to put reception around back? People approaching a civic facility generally expect to begin their experience at a main (front facing) entrance.

The majority of parking is at the rear. Is there a big, obvious door at the back from which the reception area can be accessed directly by the public through a hallway, without having to walk all the way around the building exterior? I do not believe so.

To what extent could that meeting space at the back of 1512 Keating eventually be repurposed, e.g., for police and fire administration? Is it presumed that police and fire must necessarily be part of the new municipal building on Hovey? What change of location or renovation would be ideal for delivery of emergency services? Obviously, our police officers and firefighters and colleagues should have something to say about that. Could police headquarters use leased space somewhere in the Keating Business Park, e.g., somewhere closer geographically to wherever more calls tend to originate? I believe that some police departments find it practical to set up small satellite offices in commercial areas as part of "community policing."

The Civic Redevelopment pamphlet includes a one-page insert asking "What amenities are your

priorities as a business?" A municipal government building is supposed to deliver municipal services, not "amenities."

Stay focused. Build a municipal hall that works as a municipal hall, make it people-friendly, intuitive and accessible, and build it out on the designated land in order to make best possible use of all the space available, so that officials are not pushing for another replacement or addition as soon as the current project is complete. And please, no playgrounds or obstacle courses.

Respectfully,

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