

My comments to Kingston Common Council on the abandonment of Fair Street Extension, December 2, 2021.

My name is Jim Shaughnessy and I live at 11 Delta Place in Kingston. It has been my home for over 27 years.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on the matter of the abandonment of Fair Street Extension.

I know that Common Council is a group of talented and smart people. I also think you all know that Fair Street Extension is a public thoroughfare of high utility. Today, if you are at the western exit of Kingston Plaza and you want to drive to the main entrance of the Senate House State Historic Site, it is approximately 700 feet straight up Fair Street Extension. If you abandon Fair Street Extension, you will be able to turn left onto Schwenk Drive, continue onto Clinton Avenue, right onto Main Street, right onto Wall Street, right onto North Front Street, right onto Fair Street, and your destination will be on your left, a distance of approximately 3,750 ft. Or you can take the shorter route — right onto Schwenk Drive, left onto Frog Alley, right onto North Front Street, right onto Fair Street, and your destination will be on your left, and you will only have traveled 2,575 feet.

I would like to make a few comments about the Kingstonian project. It was one year ago today that the Kingston City School Board of Education voted against approving the Kingston PILOT. I personally had aspersions cast against me by the developers and several prominent politicians for my vote.

I would like to say that I have always silently objected to saying this project is by local developers. I am of the opinion that the Bonura Hospitality Group is the prime behind this project. I have often wondered if Joe Bonura, Jr has ever slept a night in Kingston.

Thankfully, the IDA didn't approve a 99 year PILOT like the Bonura Group was granted for a Poughkeepsie apartment complex.

I think Common Council has to decide if its constituency is a few privileged people or a broad swath of diverse residents.

Thank you.

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