



December 2, 2021

To: Kingston Common Council
From: Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce
Re: Kingstonian Partial Road Closure

My name is Ward Todd. On behalf of the Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, I'd like to thank you for this opportunity to speak in favor of closing a portion of Fair Street Extension, which will allow the construction of the Kingstonian to proceed.

As I believe you are all aware, the developers are providing enormous benefits in return for this necessary partial road closure, including nearly 300 public parking spaces, critical housing, public gathering space, jobs, sales tax, ADA compliant pedestrian access, tourism, hotel rooms and much, much more.

Without the partial road closure, we would lose some of the greatest benefits of the project—mainly the public plaza and gathering space, which along with the public parking garage is the signature part of the project.

There will be storefronts inside the pedestrian plaza creating sales tax and employment.

The partial road closure is also necessary to construct the ADA compliant pedestrian bridge which economically links the uptown business district to the Kingston Plaza and additional parking. The pedestrian plaza and ADA compliant bridge are all part of the DRI grant. The bridge encourages walkability and pedestrian safety - 2 things the project was asked to provide.

The linking of both sides of the street is what makes the project most beneficial to the community and economically feasible to build. It allows the project to meet multiple goals outlined in advance by the City of Kingston and so much more—public parking, housing, employment, walkability, pedestrian safety, public restrooms, affordable housing, and public gathering space.

The Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors enthusiastically endorses this project and urges the members of the Common Council to approve the partial closure of the Fair Street Extension.

From: Eric Deising <ericdeising@yahoo.com>
To: The Kingstonian <info@kingstonianny.net>
Sent: Thursday, December 2, 2021, 05:39:16 AM EST
Subject: Re: The Kingstonian Project needs your support!

To whom it may concern,

My name is Eric Deising, President of Deising's Bakery and restaurant located down the street of where the Kingstonian project is being proposed. I am writing to you to urge you to move the Kingstonian project forward without any more delays. For too long the city of Kingston has put road block after road block on just about every development project that is presented before them. This has been happening for decades! I am not against the city carefully evaluating development of our great city. We need to be sure that we develop properly in order to keep our identity and to be sure our community will benefit as a whole. However, the Kingstonian project checks all of the boxes for what the uptown district needs. It will bring much needed housing. It will bring much needed foot traffic for all of those uptown business' that have no where for their customers to park. The money generated by the foot traffic creates tax revenues. The Kingstonian will help the uptown area in so many ways. As an added benefit, this extra foot traffic will create the need for these business' to hire more staff. The parking spaces proposed by this project will also help reduce the over crowded municipal parking lot, of which you can not find a parking space in that lot after 9 am. When people can not park, they can not shop. Consideration must be made for these developers as well. They are taking a big chance with their time and money on a project of this magnitude. Will they eventually benefit from this? Yes. But it takes many years before that will happen. The city should be helping them to be successful, not hindering them with red tape at every turn. When they are successful, then we all benefit. They are the ones taking the risks. They are the ones putting in the time and effort. If we continue to place so much red tape on developers, Kingston will never grow and adapt to the changing world. The alternative to killing this project leaves us with what we have now. An empty space that does not benefit anyone but the drunks and homeless people that hang out there spraying graffiti on the walls.

The council has combed through this project very carefully over the past few years. For that I am thankful that they are making sure that it will be great. But this has dragged on long enough, and the council has picked it apart to make sure that it will be great. Now is the time to pull the trigger and get this project started once and for all.

Thank you for your time,
Sincerely,

Eric Deising
President
Deising's Bakery & Restaurant & Catering Co.
119 North Front Street
Kingston, NY 12401
845-338-7505 work
845-706-7603 cell

Winner " Best Retail Bakery in America 1984"
Winner " Best Breakfast in the Hudson Valley"
Winner " Best cookies in the Hudson Valley"
and numerous other awards!

Winner " 2014 Small business of the Year" award, Ulster County Chamber of Commerce

Winner "Sweetest Bakery in NY" 2018

Winner "Best Bakery in the Hudson Valley" (several times)



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I've submitted written comments, detailing the reasons why it's **necessary** to close a portion of Fair Street Extension ... as well the **advantages** of closing it ... but I'd also like to bring to your attention that, without question, the "highest and best use" of that roadway is as a signature portion of the Kingstonian Project.

That is made even more clear to me when I see how Kingston and Uptown Kingston in particular, has become such a "pedestrian-friendly" city.

Walking is healthier and of course better for the environment. Sectioning off a portion of the Fair Street Extension will make walking to and from Uptown Kingston much easier ... and much safer.

I shudder every time I see someone trying to cross four lanes of Schwenk Drive to get to MAC Fitness or any of the stores in the Kingston Plaza ... or to walk to the many great Uptown stores and restaurants from the plaza.

The Kingstonian will provide an overhead walkway, eliminating that intersection for pedestrians and will also provide a beautiful respite in a park-like setting in the middle of the hustle of uptown Kingston.

I have no doubt that the highest and best use of the Fair Street Extension ... and the uncovered and small city parking lot is ... The Kingstonian.

The Ulster County Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors enthusiastically endorses this project and urges the members of the Common Council to approve the partial closure of the Fair Street Extension.

We are sharpening our scissors right now and cannot wait for the Ribbon Cutting on opening day!

It's time!