



Contact: Terry Burghard, Interim Village Manager
Administration Department
Phone: 630-469-5000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2011

An open letter to Citizens of District 502 from the Village of Glen Ellyn

The College of DuPage is a first-class community educational institution with a well-deserved national reputation. The Village of Glen Ellyn is a remarkable place to live, work and visit, fueled by intelligent and caring residents. The governments of these two institutions are led by capable, responsible citizens. The two should use their collective intelligence to enhance those they serve, rather than be mired in disagreement.

Without a public relations function or backing of strong political parties or special interest groups, the Village Board opts for open meetings, public input and frank deliberation. The meetings are always broadcast live and then repeated on public access television and are also available on the village website.

The Village has taken the “high road” with regard to negotiations with the College with no “wars” in the press and few press releases that stick only to the facts. The Village’s philosophy is that direct negotiations and open communication between the parties, especially the paid management from both, offers the best approach.

Recent College publications and numerous requests for additional information and clarification have prompted this letter. Below please find bulleted responses to the most frequently asked questions. Much more information can be found at www.glenellyn.org, following the College of DuPage news link.

- The College and the Village have the mutual goal of opening the new structures at COD safely and timely for the benefit of the students, employees and visitors of the College.
- The College’s new structures have been reviewed by Peer Reviewers and Site Observers by its own hired construction professionals. The structures have not been officially inspected to meet applicable code.
- Unlike public grade schools or high schools, no state or any other agency is responsible for inspecting community college structures.
- The College’s Joe Moore has stated in June 2011 that the College’s new structures meet and exceed all applicable code.

- The Village proposed a solution of having the certified professionals who reviewed and observed the structures sign Certificates of Compliance stating the new structures meet all applicable codes. The Village provided the exact certification forms necessary and which was needed from each of the College's 13 construction professionals. An inspection would follow.
- This proposal is basically a no-cost no-court solution to the College and the taxpayers of District 502, which includes Glen Ellyn and its unincorporated areas.
- Once the Certificates of Compliance are received in their entirety and inspections are completed, the Village Board can consider issuing Certificates of Occupancy for the new structures.
- The College and the Village successfully negotiated two Intergovernmental Agreements concerning development at the College – one in 2007 and one in 2011. The College unilaterally canceled the first and voted to rescind its approval of the second. The Village did not add any last minute conditions to the proposed 2011 IGA. The College requested the last insertion to the proposal, which was included.
- In the absence of an IGA, the Village Board passed a Policy Statement regarding the College, which offers the College a multitude of options for proceeding, from the re-adoption of 2007 IGA to the regrettable and expensive act, in the Village's opinion, of disconnection.
- The College has taken the Village to court twice and also sued the Village. Last week, the Village asked the court for permission to file additional pleadings to the College's lawsuit preventing, if necessary, the College from occupying the new structures if adequate certifications and final inspections do not take place. The Village informed the College of this court request the week before the meeting between the College and the Village development professionals was held so that there were no surprises.
- The Village has not yet filed a temporary restraining order preventing occupancy, but will do so soon if progress is not made with proper certifications and inspections. In absence of any other government's authority to inspect, it is the Village's obligation to inspect the College's new structures to protect the safety of the occupants.

The Village Board and many reasonable residents of the Community College District 502 and the Village of Glen Ellyn hope the proposed solution is successful and the two entities can focus their energies on the future in partnership

#