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Village Seeks Creative Solutions to COD Development

Glen Ellyn, IL - In response to numerous media inquiries, Terrance Burghard, Interim Village Manager of Glen Ellyn, reported that Village of Glen Ellyn and College of DuPage Staffs met on Tuesday morning, June 28, at COD with various architects and contractors of the College. "This was a productive meeting with the key representatives of the ongoing construction," said Burghard.

The meeting was called by COD after the Village had submitted a draft Certificates of Compliance to various contractors last week in cooperation with the College. The Village is attempting to create a system whereby these contractors could certify that they did indeed comply with all applicable building codes. According to Burghard, once the architects and contractors certify in writing that the design and construction complies, the Village Board may then be able to consider the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy that signify the buildings were built according to code. The Village proposed such a certification system because the College never applied for building permits nor allowed the buildings to be inspected. In the absence of building permits and subsequent Village building inspections, the Village staff cannot issue such Certificates of Occupancy permits as it would do customarily.

"The Village is trying to be creative in addressing the situation in as efficient and cost effective manner as possible," said Village President Mark Pfefferman. "Recent communication and yesterday's meeting lead me to believe the College is as well. That's what good governments are supposed to do. The parties are clearly looking forward toward solutions instead of dwelling in the past. The Certificates of Compliance are an ideal mechanism toward achieving our mutual goal – opening the College's buildings safely and on time."

Village Attorney, Stewart Diamond, pointed out at the Village Board Workshop on Monday evening, June 27 that the Village would request permission from the DuPage County Circuit Court to file additional pleadings in the lawsuit filed by the College against the Village. Those additional pleadings were permitted to be filed this morning and allow the Village, if necessary, to return to court to ask for an order preventing occupancy of buildings under construction or major repair at the College until Certificates of Occupancy have been issued.

"I certainly hope that it is not necessary to go back to court on an emergency basis and that the current discussions between the College and the Village will resolve the occupancy issues," Diamond stated. "At the same time, we all have to be legally prepared in the event that the current proposed solutions don't work out. If we leave this in the hands of the building experts and not the lawyers, I believe a compromise is very likely," Diamond said.

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