



AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Edward F. Peltier, Executive Director

January 15, 2014

Town Planning & Zoning Commission
Town of West Hartford
50 South Main Street
West Hartford, CT 06107

Dear Chair Kevin Ahern and Commission Members,

On behalf of the American School for the Deaf "ASD", we would request that this letter be read into the public hearing record with respect to the pending application of Sard Custom Homes LLC, scheduled for January 22, 2014. We feel it is important for the Commission to understand that the sale of the subject parcel is critical to our overall vision for the future success of ASD's ongoing service to the deaf community.

ASD has no need for this expanse of land, or the financial obligations of maintaining it. Therefore, the sale is in the best interests of the students and their related programs. The academic programs serve students whom eighty-two percent (82%) have at least one disability in addition to deafness. Furthermore, sixty-two percent (62%) are members of racial or ethnic groups and approximately eighty percent (80%) qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program.

It has come to our attention that several people have expressed concerns over Mr. Sard's absence from a meeting that ASD had invited the community to in May of 2013. We would like clarify that as of the date of the meeting, there was no contract between the school and Sard Custom Homes, LLC as negotiations between the parties were yet to be finalized. Accordingly, ASD asked Mr. Sard not to attend the meeting.

We understand that change in any neighborhood is very difficult. Having been a good neighbor for the past ninety-three years, we encourage the commission to approve the application presented by Sard Custom Homes knowing that this potential sale will greatly enhance the school's ability to continue to serve the deaf community as it has for almost 200 years.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Peltier

Cc: The Honorable Scott Slifka, Mayor, and Town Council Members
David Carter, Board President

