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From: PTAShopExecDir@aol.com [<mailto:PTAShopExecDir@aol.com>]

Sent: Wednesday, November 13, 2002 11:09 PM

To: Cal Horton

Cc: Roger Waldon

Subject: Re: Bus Schedule - Village Plaza

Mr. Horton,

Passing on factual information comes naturally; in my youth I prepared reports for Congressional hearings and later prepared people for hearings. It is very hard to pay attention to every spoken detail. It was hard enough when everyone worked all day in the same building. I have been teasing James Harris that I will apply for Bob Morgan's job so I can appreciate how easy my current job is. Federal government is a picnic compared to what you are achieving.

I knew the fact that buses do not currently run to transport moviegoers was becoming a diversion regarding the quality of the decisions being made. I only regret I did not think to pass along sooner. I realize it is very hard to implement required public policy changes as citizens focus on present concerns.

The PTA Thrift Shop has spent the past couple of years assessing its own decisionmaking process. While we have been retrenching, streamlining processes and assessing our risk management practices we have reduced the profits distributed to the PTAs. I know you are aware of the needs met by PTA dollars in our public schools. Recently our distribution has dropped from about \$500,000 for a couple of years to around \$340,000 for the past two years. A big chunk of our revenue went to paying staff a living wage, health benefits, increased rent in Chapel Hill and purchasing appropriate equipment to assist the staff in performing their jobs. It is easier for many to look to the Thrift Shop to pay for their school expectations rather than go to the Orange County Commissioners for more money.

During the same period, the Board of Directors have been working to empower the staff to run the day to day operation of the business. Those working daily in the shops deserve the credit for what appears to be a huge increase in our Village Plaza profits. For about a year now we have been open until 8pm. For the past several years our daily revenue has hovered around \$2,000. For the past couple of months revenue between 4 pm and 8 pm has been hovering around \$1,000 while total daily revenue has been closer to \$3,000. It is recreational shopping.

I stand by my initial remarks on October 16th. A movie theater would be a great opportunity for us. My only concern is not having our parking lot become gated as easy access is key to recreational shopping. I am sure it is possible to work out the parking details for the area. I waited until today to reply to an inquiry from Jonelle Davis of the Chapel Hill News. My comments to her were on an expectation that an accord will be reached before the January hearing. I have spent the past two months telling people my view is that the decisionmaking process of the developer, the town council, the tenants and the adjacent property owners to be operating in different timeframes that can successfully converge.

Buffie Webber
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