

Dear Mayor Wheeler, Supervisor Reger, Village Trustees, and Town Board Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep opposition to the sale of Cazenovia College buildings to the Madison County Sheriff's Department for redevelopment and demolition in order to house Sheriff's Department offices, 911 response, and parking for personnel. Not only was this deal concluded without transparency or any public input, it runs counter to the open character and interaction we want in our community. It is a fact that law enforcement does not share property of parking lots with civilians, locals, or tourists. It is very uncomfortable to mistakenly trespass onto such property and typically leads to an encounter with an armed officer. This is not the welcome we are seeking for our visitors or residents. What is more, the property in question is around the corner from the ice cream stand and across the street from a church. It does not seem like the appropriate setting for our county law enforcement.

This is not the only spot for this relocation. In fact, it is not even an ideal spot for the Madison County Sheriffs. We are a small village looking for sustainability, support for our local farms and agricultural neighbors, and the opportunity to increase community flow and recreational opportunities. The college property offers a vision for all of this. I am asking our boards, mayor, and administrators to pause this sale and take the time to review our vision for the village and the Cazenovia College property. Nine Fresh, before they succeeded in their bid to purchase the campus, shared a vision of a fully interactive campus with public spaces, residential learning, maybe even experimental kitchens to increase farm-to-table development and serve as a replacement for the Nelson incubator space. I believe we need to support that vision and encourage the Madison County Sheriff's Department to locate their offices away from the center of the village.

It has been stated that the village of Cazenovia is a central location for the Madison County Sheriffs. In truth, this is not the center of the county; Cazenovia is adjacent to Onondaga County. Supervisor Reger, who was open to discussing these points during his office hours, admitted that the center of the county is actually Morrisville. Why, then, wouldn't we look at a relocation of the Sheriff's Department there? With the state-supported discussions surrounding the merger of the Cazenovia and Morrisville school districts, there is likely to be an upcoming vacancy suited to the relocation of the Sheriffs. Our conversation with Supervisor Reger regarding the suitability of the Cazenovia College buildings and outfitting them to house county law enforcement included considerations of the building size, layout, and roof. As of this date, the huge Morrisville elementary school is being fully reroofed, is suited to offices, is adjacent to state property and college police, and offers ample parking. There would be no need for a tear down; the location is merely a block from Route 20. Why would not wait to make a decision on placement of the Madison County

Sheriff's Department until questions like the merger, comparative cost and feasibility studies, and an impact study on Cazenovia are completed?

It is not in keeping with the spirit of our village or any community space to rip down existing buildings to create parking. This is not a sustainable approach to contemporary development, village living, and the reality of a walking community. What is more, the requirements of outfitting a secure building for law enforcement include concrete barriers or pillars at the street level, reinforced wall structures, and complex communication installations. Why would we opt to do this in the historic core of our village instead of building a new structure and parking on one of the available parcels outside of the village, with direct access to the main traffic corridors?

The presence of County Sheriffs in our village would mean increased sirens, high speed traffic, and cut throughs on village streets. Cazenovia is a walking village and such speeds and emergency responses would impact children walking to school, bikers, pedestrians, and neighbors. In addition to sirens, the retrofit of the building would require large generators and ventilation towers that would constantly run. This increased noise would be a disruption to village life and wildlife. It is important to consider the impacts of placing these offices in a quiet, rural village.

I urge you to pause the approval of this project, vote to undertake an impact study along with a review of the comprehensive plan, and gather public input through forums and dialogue.

With huge respect for you and love of this community,

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