

Letter To The Editor: Third Ward Alderman Mike Velloff Presents Copy of Memorandum of Understanding Signed by Mayor Brant Walker

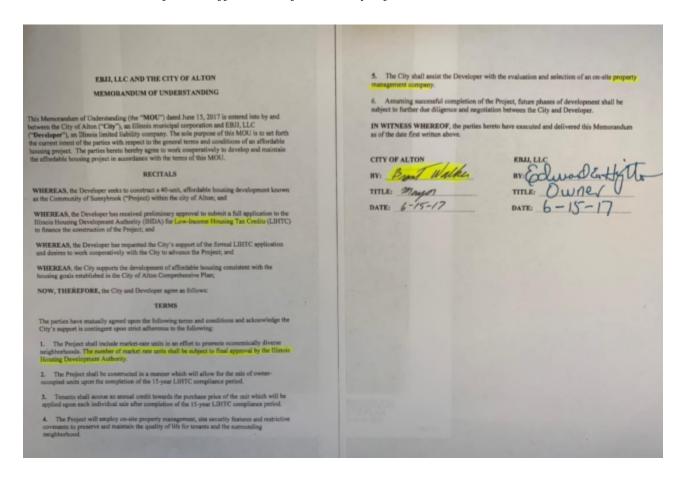
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ALTON — Third Ward Alderman Michael Velloff presented a copy of the memorandum of understanding signed by Alton Mayor Brant Walker in support of the construction of the Sunnybrook Housing Development in Alton, Ill. The MOU was issued on February 23, 2018.

"Mayor Walker solely agreed on the terms of development and wrote a glowing letter of support for Sunnybrook to obtain grant money from the State of Illinois to build the development without notifying one single council member," said Velloff. "Walker then decided to retract his support for the development the day before the grants were awarded. This resulted in the developer filing suit against the city. The city has already lost in circuit court, in which the circuit judge of Madison County ordered the city to issue a building permit to the developer, held the city in contempt, and fined it \$500 a day for each day that the building permit is not issued. The city then appealed to the 5th District appellate court. In addition, the city is paying tens of thousands of dollars in legal fees due to Brant Walker's bad judgement and lack of integrity."

Below is a letter from officials of the City of Alton to Audra Hamernik:





OFFICE OF MAYOR BRANT WALKER ROOM 201 ALTON, IL 62002

February 23, 2018

Audra Hamernik
Executive Director
Illinois Housing Development Authority 111 E. Wacker, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60601

RE: Letter of Support for the Community of Sunnybrook, Alton, IL

Dear Ms. Hamernik:

I am writing to express my support for the construction of the Community of Sunnybrook development. The development is a 40-unit new construction project for families in the Alton area. The property's design includes 20 duplex buildings containing four one bedroom units, 12 two bedroom units and 24 three bedroom units. Each unit will have its own washer, dryer and dishwasher. There will be a clubhouse near the southern edge of the property that will house the manager's office, as well as computer and meeting rooms. The site will be enhanced with a new concrete street and parking bays at each unit, with ADA accessible sidewalks throughout the project. A playground and play area will also be built adjacent to the clubhouse.

This project is directly in line with Alton's growth and revitalization efforts. Alton has been working on a redevelopment plan for its riverfront, downtown central business district and adjacent neighborhoods. The area has already seen an increase in tourism and is working on a path for future employment opportunities in high growth occupations. The plan also addresses the need to connect neighborhoods to resources through existing transportation. This development is located on a public transit route and will be key in our efforts to connect entry-level workforce with affordable housing and transportation.

As the Mayor of Alton, I affirm that the City strongly supports this project and the efforts of the development team. I understand that the project is seeking Madison County HOME funds and I support this request. Our community wants a quality, affordable option for families and looks forward to partnering with this development team to make this a reality.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding our support for this project.

Brond Walker

Brant Walker Mayor

CC: Dr. Edward Hightower, EBIJ, LLC

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