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October 14, 2017

Honorable Joanne Yepsen, Mayor
City of Saratoga Springs
City Hall
474 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

Re: UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE DELAYS

Dear Mayor Yepsen:

Sustainable Saratoga has been an early and consistent supporter of efforts to create a Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). We wrote a letter in support of the original NYSERDA grant application to help finance the development of the UDO. It has been our hope that the UDO would implement many of the sustainable development policies contained in the adopted 2015 Comprehensive Plan.

Please help us understand why the development of the new Unified Development Ordinance is so far behind schedule. It is our understanding that the original schedule called for the new UDO to be completed within one year, by September 2016. That places the possible adoption of the document at almost a year and a half overdue.

There has not been a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee since June 27, 2017. We attended most of the meetings of the committee and were frustrated by the lack of decisions or direction on the topics presented or public comments offered.

We wrote to you on May 8, 2017 and expressed our concerns about the schedule and offered to meet to explore options on how to expedite the process. We did not hear from you.

We have repeatedly called for a revised schedule and process to ensure the document will address the most important issues in the timeliest manner.

We are concerned that the delay harms the integrity of the planning process. Delays also lead to cost overruns. The UDO was largely funded by a NYSERDA grant and we would be concerned if City taxpayer money would have to be used to complete the process.

We hope you or the Council will quickly get this project back on track.

Respectfully,

Harry Moran
Board Chair

cc: John Franck, Commissioner of Accounts
Michele Madigan, Commissioner of Finance
Christian Mathiesen, Commissioner of Public Safety
Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner of Public Works