

Judy Bialk

From: Pat McKay
Sent: Thursday, November 20, 2008 3:17 PM
To: Derek Delacourt
Cc: Judy Bialk
Subject: Certified Local Government application

Mr. Delacourt:

I wanted to provide this letter to you to indicate my strong support of the City of Rochester Hills' application to become a Certified Local Government. This process has been ongoing since at least 1992 and the positive benefits of this program make it imperative that we receive approval of the certification and start utilizing available funds to preserve our community's historic resources.

The City of Rochester Hills has already taken the necessary steps to receive certification and we have been operating at the high levels required of this program - we have a historic ordinance, an appointed historic districts commission, professional members, we provide adequate public participation, and have an ongoing survey of existing and potential historic resources. Once we are certified, we are eligible to receive a portion of the 10% the State of Michigan receives through the federal Historic Preservation Fund. These funds can be used for the very projects we have already identified and are seeking funding for: Conducting surveys of historic resources, preparing nominations for the National Register of Historic Places, developing guidelines, conducting seminars, and creating a local preservation plan.

In addition, we will be eligible to obtain funding for rehabilitation of national register-listed properties. This includes the Rochester Hills Museum property - 1840 Van Hoosen Farmhouse, 1927 Dairy Barn, 1911 Milk House, 1927 Calf Barn, 1850 Red House, 1848 Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, and numerous other properties in the Stoney Creek Village historic district - which has been listed on the National Register since 1972!

The source of funds to restore historic buildings has declined for many years, and the Certified Local Government program provides us with an exciting and viable option for securing funds and leveraging community support to preserve our historic resources.

I will do all that is necessary to obtain this certification and I applaud your efforts at seeking certification as a Certified Local Government.

Patrick J. McKay
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