



Office of the Mayor

"BETTER BY THE BAY"

James J. Schmitt
Mayor

February 29, 2012

Dear President McIntyre,

I want to follow up on our discussions from yesterday's MECCA meeting. I expressed some concerns over the Village of Howard's partnership and support of Green Bay. I went so far as to insinuate that residents of the Village use the "Green Bay" name without having any real connection to Green Bay. For example, Howard residents have no representation on the Green Bay City Council, they must abide by separate zoning laws and tax structure, and Howard businesses are not eligible for Green Bay programs and incentives. The only similarity between the two communities is geographic.

At the MECCA meeting you stated that you will instruct the Howard Village Board to no longer use the Green Bay name. While that is definitely an option, I would like you to consider another option- that of consolidation with the City of Green Bay:

"Consolidation requires an ordinance that is passed by a 2/3 vote of all the members of the governing body in each of the affected municipalities. The ordinance must first undergo review by both a circuit court and the DOA to determine whether the proposed consolidation is in the public interest. The ordinance then must be ratified by the electors at a referendum held in each municipality," [s. 66.0229, Stats.].

I'd like to see Howard use its own name to attract businesses and development or consolidate with the City of Green Bay to receive all Green Bay services and name recognition. Howard's use of the Green Bay name creates confusion amongst residents and businesses as to their actual connection to Green Bay. Therefore, Howard needs to make a decision, either to go independent using solely the Howard name or consolidate with Green Bay. I will support either direction; however the current status is resulting in higher economic development payouts and unfair practices. This issue needs to be resolved.

I want to again express my support of your efforts in resolving the issue of misusing the Green Bay name. I consider you a partner in regional success and look forward to continuing a strong relationship with the businesses and residents of Howard. I am always available to discuss the matters expressed in this letter. I can be reached at 920-448-3005. Thank you for your understanding of the situation and consideration of possible solutions.

Sincerely,

Mayor Jim Schmitt, City of Green Bay