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Sent: Friday, June 09, 2017 8:58 AM

To: jnoble39@aol.com

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Subject: In support of RUPCO's planned use of the Alms House for affordable housing

Dear Alderman Noble,

I am writing as a businessman to strongly support RUPCO'S plans to convert the Alms House into affordable housing. The great hue and cry that has risen in opposition to it reminds me of the opposition to the building of the homeless shelter on Thomas St. in the late 1990s. Over and over we were told how it would make Kingston the dumping ground of the needy, how it would create crime and a bad business climate in Kingston. Indeed, for many years Midtown Broadway was a scene of crime and shoddy storefronts. But not because of the homeless shelter. The shelter gave people a haven from the streets. And we look at it today as a model part of Midtown's fabric.

Over the last many years RUPCO has turned abandoned, dilapidated, or underused buildings into affordable housing opportunities for many different parts of the population throughout the county. Their work has served seniors, artist, veterans, and the homeless. Much talk is made about the economic growth that is occurring in the county. More and more people, attracted by our natural resources and our burgeoning cultural environment are coming to Kingston and the surrounding area. Housing prices are rising. Economic growth may be great, but it needs a balance; otherwise, large parts of our community that has contributed so much to making us what we are will be priced out. We do not want another urban removal in our city.

As an international business in Midtown for 22 years, I have witnessed what RUPCO has accomplished or is in the process of accomplishing that will help to turn long ignored Midtown into a vibrant place to live in, work in, and invest in. We have the very successful giant Lace Mill housing for artists, the plans for E-Square to provide mixed use commercial, cultural, and affordable housing that will be a model of sustainable green energy, converting the former Met Life building on Greenkill Ave. to provide space for film production.

Their plans for the Alms House building deserves the support of all of us who believe that all the population of our city needs to be served.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Richard Frumess
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