

Mayor Jay A. Gillian Response to John G. Flood Letter

The following is a response to a letter submitted to me, City Council and local media by John Flood, owner of Palmer Center LLC. The letter is about the city's proposed purchase of the former car dealership lot adjacent to the Ocean City Community Center.

Flood's letter claims, "There is no court order allowing 29 coastal cottages to be built." This is not true. There is a court order (attached) requiring the Planning Board to consider coastal cottages a conditional use in an application to build 44 of them. The same Planning Board applicant subsequently filed an amended application to build 29 coastal cottages on the portion of the property not owned by Palmer Center LLC. The fact that the property owned by Flood's company is no longer part of the application does not change the requirement for the city to abide by the court's ruling.

Appraisers were given the appropriate information about the court's ruling so they could make an accurate determination of fair market value.

The city continues to seek the best price to complete the acquisition of the entire city block. There is an "imminent threat of the dealership property getting developed into coastal cottages," and the owners of the property do have at least one other offer from a developer.

It remains my belief that if voters believe in preserving this city block for public use, they should not sign the petition seeking a public vote. Our tentative sales agreement expires Oct. 31. After that date, the property can and likely will be developed.

Jay A. Gillian
Mayor