

From the Desk of Anthony Melillo, Cranston School Committee, City Wide

To the Honorable Members of the Cranston City Council and Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of the proposed development project in the Fiskeville section of Cranston. While I understand that any major project will naturally generate discussion and differing opinions, I believe this development represents an important opportunity for the City of Cranston to strengthen its economic future while maintaining balance within our community.

Cranston, like many municipalities across Rhode Island, is facing increasing financial pressures related to infrastructure, public safety, rising operational costs, and long-term obligations. Expanding and strengthening our commercial and residential tax base is critical if we want to continue delivering quality city services without placing an unfair burden on existing taxpayers. Responsible development plays an essential role in that effort.

This project has the potential to generate significant new tax revenue for the city while creating construction jobs, supporting local businesses, and encouraging continued economic investment in Western Cranston. Cranston has consistently been recognized as one of the best places to live in Rhode Island because of its strong neighborhoods, excellent services, and ongoing investment in the community. Continued smart growth helps ensure that success continues for future generations.

Equally important, the impact on Cranston Public Schools is expected to be minimal when compared to the long-term financial benefits the project could provide. Modern developments often generate substantially more revenue than they consume in educational services, particularly when carefully planned and phased appropriately. In a time when school districts and municipalities are struggling with rising costs and aging infrastructure,

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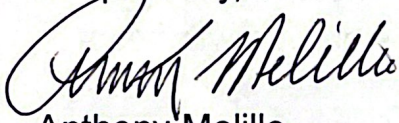
projects that strengthen the tax base without significantly increasing school enrollment should be viewed as part of the solution, not the problem.

I also believe that growth and preservation can coexist. Cranston has a long history of balancing neighborhood character with economic progress. Thoughtful planning, proper oversight, and responsible mitigation measures can ensure that concerns related to traffic, drainage, and neighborhood impact are addressed while still allowing the city to move forward.

At the end of the day, we cannot continue asking existing homeowners alone to carry the financial weight of rising municipal costs. Strategic development is necessary if Cranston is going to remain financially strong, maintain property values, support our schools, and preserve the quality of life residents expect.

I respectfully urge the city to continue working collaboratively with residents, planners, and developers to move this project forward in a responsible and productive manner.

Respectfully,



Anthony Melillo

Vice Chairman

Cranston School Committee, Citywide