

Nathan H. Smith
Mayor



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374-13-12

June 18, 2004

Theodore and Linda Sek
169 Auburn Street
Portland, ME 04103

Re: Lyseth/Moore Sign

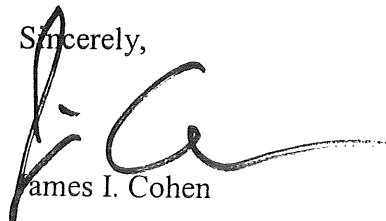
Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sek:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 29th regarding the recent erection of a sign at the corner of Auburn Street and the Lyseth/Moore Drive. I am sorry that the sign interferes with the view from your living room.

Prior to receipt of your letter, I was generally aware that a sign was planned for somewhere in this area, but I was not aware of the specific location. I am also aware that the sign was strongly supported by both the schools, parents, and teachers who utilize the campus. Since the sign was installed, I have heard glowing comments from many people in the community. As you know, the school campus is an important center for the North Deering community, and the sign was intended to convey important information regarding events at the schools. It is also possible that the sign might discourage area vandalism to the extent it conveys activity on the campus. Vandalism has been very prevalent on this campus, as I am sure you are aware.

If you remained concerned about the sign location, the land use code for the City includes a process for challenging a permit, which is the proper and legal mechanism for pursuing your concerns. I do not know if that process has expired, but we have a very professional Planning Department, and I am confident that they can advise you more specifically regarding your rights. I would be happy to inquire regarding the proper staff person, if that would be of help. In the meantime, feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,


James I. Cohen

