

## Ulster County

---

**From:** Sarah Wenk  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 7, 2020 2:11 PM  
**To:** Ulster County  
**Subject:** Public comment for 7/8/20 IDA meeting

Hi, I'd appreciate your acknowledging receipt of this, thanks.

-----

To the IDA:

I understand that initial discussion of the PILOT application for the proposed Kingstonian project is on the agenda for this week's IDA meeting. I am writing in the hope that the IDA will delay any decisions on this project until outstanding lawsuits have been resolved. But having read the application, I find that the requested terms for the PILOT are simply absurd.

A 25 year PILOT with a 100% tax exemption, at a time when the financial future of Ulster County is so uncertain, is foolish at best. The benefits of this project are unproven, and in this perilous financial atmosphere, giving such a huge tax break to such wealthy developers is an insult to the hard working residents of Kingston and the County.

The application states there will be 40 full time jobs created, 84% of them at less than \$21 an hour. Given the track record of past PILOT recipients, even that paltry number seems unlikely to occur.

In addition to that, the project is still the subject of multiple lawsuits. It would be nonsensical to do anything but postpone any IDA decisions until those suits are resolved.

Another question - why are the developers able to hide their financing and profit information? Access to this information seems crucial to the public's ability to evaluate a project to which they are being asked to contribute so many millions of dollars.

Although the developers promise to preserve - nay, enhance - the historic nature of the Stockade District, their generic and inappropriate design will have a deleterious impact on this delicate and valuable resource. The hulking size of the project, the closing of a public street, the addition of fewer than 200 parking spaces (another questionable number) accessible to the public, all of this will change the Stockade District forever.

Every decision regarding this project must be made with the utmost deliberation, and with the understanding that these are decisions - both financial and aesthetic - that can never be undone. I urge the board to postpone any decision on this PILOT until more information is forthcoming from the courts, and if the applicant continues to pursue a PILOT, I urge the board to deny it.

Thank you,

Sarah Wenk  
Kingston