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BROOKFIELD
DOVER
DURHAM
FARMINGTON
LEE
MADBURY
MIDDLETON
MILTON



NEW DURHAM
NEWMARKET
NORTHWOOD
NOTTINGHAM
ROCHESTER
ROLLINSFORD
SOMERSWORTH
STRAFFORD
WAKEFIELD

May 28, 2008

Honorable Scott Myers
Mayor of Dover
Dover, NH 03820

Dear Mayor Myers:

I am writing on behalf of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission Executive Committee of which all 18 communities listed above are active, dues paying members. SRPC's annual dues request for the City of Dover for FY2009 is \$18,387. It is our understanding that the SRPC request was included in the Planning Department's budget, but was removed from the City Manager's proposed budget to meet current fiscal constraints under the tax cap.

Our Executive Committee met on May 16, 2008 to discuss our work plan and budget for FY2009. Like every private and public sector organization we have made difficult decisions for the next fiscal year. Tomorrow evening our Commissioners will vote on the FY2009 budget and work plan at our Annual Meeting. The Executive Committee is acutely aware of the challenges facing the City of Dover, and is respectful of the choices that will be made this year by your Council. Nevertheless, the Executive Committee asks that you give due thought to your continuing membership in SRPC. Why is membership important?

First and foremost, the Executive Committee believes that in times of fiscal constraints, it is prudent to invest in professional relationships and services that foster coordination, collaboration, and efficiency of efforts. Through the interests of the whole, the planning region, are the interests of the one, the City of Dover, better represented and protected. SRPC is here in Dover to ensure that state and federal agencies accurately understand Dover's perspectives and needs, that barriers are eliminated, and that federal and state funded projects are completed to everyone's satisfaction.

Secondly, the Executive Committee appreciates the leadership function provided by Dover over the last 39 years of our existence as a political subdivision of the State. Your residents and staff have served as our Officers, Executive Committee members, and Technical Advisory Committee Officers. Together they have contributed substantially to the policy and project implementation within our agency. In return, Dover projects and priorities successfully moved forward to completion. Your leadership on SRPC plays an important role in the growth and development of the region and the City.

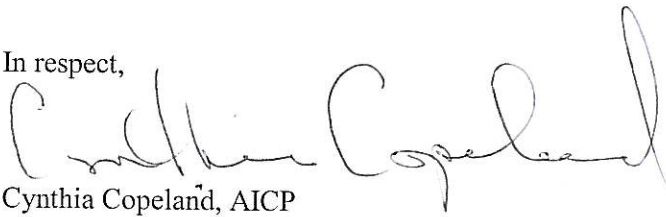
Thirdly, our office is located in Dover, our staff lives in Dover, and we contribute through our lease to the tax base of the City. Dover is our agency home, and we are proud members of Dover's workforce economy.

Planning and action for sustainable development and an improved quality of life.

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In conclusion, the Executive Committee asks for your full support for SRPC's request from the City of Dover of \$18,387. However, with an understanding of the constraints of this particular year in terms of the economy and the tax cap, we would ask you to consider two other options if full payment is not possible: 1) payment of the local match for the update to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and of the local match for the MPO contract with NHDOT, or 2) establishing a nominal placeholder in the Planning budget for SRPC for unknown projects and future budget year discussions.

In respect,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cynthia Copeland', written in a cursive style.

Cynthia Copeland, AICP
Executive Director
Strafford Regional Planning Commission

cc: Dover City Council
Dover City Manager
Planning Department Director and Staff
Dover SRPC representatives