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P.H. 7-A

The Lady or the Tiger?

(A personal dissertation on the development of the waterfront)

Let me begin by professing my unequivocal support for the development of the Cocheco River Waterfront as proposed by the Cocheco waterfront development committee.

I have listened; I have watched; I have discussed with others, and I have pondered the issues presented by both sides before reaching my decision.

Soon and very soon, we will be at a crucial fork in the road leading to Dover's future.

On the right, a once in a lifetime opportunity to develop our waterfront in a manner consistent with the will of the majority.

On the left we see little possibility in the foreseeable future for moving Dover to a more attractive, vibrant and prosperous city.

Previously I had believed and continue to believe that the future of our city would be well served by the productive use of the McConnell Center, the relocation of the Children's Museum to Dover, the development of the waterfront and a parking solution that would support those improvements. To your credit, you have achieved the first two goals.

We need to move forward. To do nothing is a decision that will prevent Dover from competing with the economies of surrounding communities. Surely, we must compete or surely we will perish.

As a part of my thought process, I could not help but liken the debate to the famous short story written by Frank R. Stockton, the "Lady or the Tiger". In the story there are two identical doors in a vast arena. Behind one door would be a beautiful lady and behind the other a ferocious tiger.

When the King raised his arm, the person on trial would freely select one of the doors. I envision the decision of the City Council as selecting one of the doors. Would it be the Tiger; a desolate piece of land lying fallow, overgrown with weeds, pucker brush and littered remnants of man's thoughtless abuse? Or would it be the Lady; a beautiful site, luring citizens and visitors alike to this city we all call our home?

Think of it, a river view walk, a lovely park filled with flowering trees and pretty flowers, curio shops and boutiques, a pier for welcoming visitors from other places, and perhaps a venue for gala community events.

So Councilors, what will it be; the Lady or the Tiger? Vote yes; for Dover, the People and the Waterfront on June 13th.

Thank you.

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