



TOWN OF VERNON

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OFFICE OF THE
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Claire Janowski, State Representative
Assembly District 56
Legislative Office Building, Room 1003
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

HB. 5476

March 11, 2008

Dear Representative Janowski,

It is with great anticipation that I announce the Town of Vernon's support for the State of Connecticut's endorsement of a Connecticut Music Museum to be located in Citizen's Block Building the historic downtown Rockville section of Vernon. With the support of the Gene Pitney Commemorative Committee, Town Administration recently received approval from the Town Council to pursue funding for a feasibility study from the Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism. This event is an important new venture in the Town of Vernon's plan for re-development, beginning almost one year ago.

In July of 2007 Governor Rell signed a bill creating a committee to plan a State Music Hall of Fame with State funds. The focus of the Museum would be to honor homegrown singers, writers, composers, producers, and others in the music industry. Part of the committee's work is to recommend a place to build it. In August, 2007 local officials and State representatives toured the Citizen's Block site and the surrounding area to explore its potential as the location for the Museum.

The prior year, the local Gene Pitney Commemorative Committee was formed after the death of famous musician Gene Pitney, AKA "The Rockville Rocket". Pitney was born in Rockville and rose from humble beginnings in a local band to international stardom. Pitney is a national Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame inductee. The Committee's objective is to create a Hometown Heroes/Music Museum in Downtown Rockville dedicated to honoring local musicians. It has been actively working on that initiative.

The integration of these two initiatives into the Connecticut Music Museum and Hall of Fame would be fitting and benefit both efforts. The result would be one well coordinated attraction that would interest more visitors. The Citizen's Block would be the ideal site for the Museum because of Pitney's roots and its desirable location.

Thank you for the opportunity to express on behalf of the Town, our fullest support for this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Christopher Clark
Town Administrator