

TESTIMONIAL

KEVIN WASHINGTON/GARY WOLFF

*STATE BONDING COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 5, 2009, 11 A.M.*

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 1D

HELLO I AM KEVIN WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE YMCA OF GREATER HARTFORD AND THIS IS GARY WOLFF, VICE CHAIRMAN OF OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND CHAIRMAN OF OUR FINANCE COMMITTEE.

WE ARE HERE TO SUPPORT THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW YMCA IN ELLINGTON, CT. TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE FASTEST GROWING REGION IN THE STATE.

- A FEASIBILITY STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE YMCA INDICATED THE COMMUNITY RESIDENTS GREATLY DESIRED A YEAR-ROUND SWIMMING FACILITY WHERE CHILDREN AND ADULTS CAN LEARN TO SWIM AND EXERCISE AS PART OF AN OVERALL HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.
- OUR DATA INDICATED THAT THERE ARE PLACES IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT WHERE INFANT MORTALITY IS OVER 10%, CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX ARE LIVING IN SINGLE PARENT HOMES AND ONLY 10% OF TEEN MOMS HAVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS. THE NEW EASTERN REGIONAL YMCA YOUTH AND FAMILY CENTER WILL ADDRESS THESE NEEDS AND WILL BE OFFERED TO DIVERSE AUDIENCES IN TERMS OF GENDER, AGE, RACE AND ETHNICITY AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS.
- PROGRAMS WILL INCLUDE SWIMMING, HEALTH AND WELLNESS, AN OLDER ADULT CENTER, BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, ORGANIZED YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS AND A PRE-TEEN AND TEEN CENTER THAT WILL HOST YMCA YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT AND TEEN LEADERS CLUBS.

- ADDITIONALLY, THE YMCA HAS TWO UNIQUE PROGRAMS TO MAKE PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE, REGARDLESS OF THEIR ABILITY TO PAY. ITS "MEMBERSHIP FOR ALL" PROGRAM IS AN INCOME-BASED FEE STRUCTURE WHICH MAKES MEMBERSHIPS AFFORDABLE TO FAMILIES AND ADULTS. IN ADDITION, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE IN SIGNIFICANT NEED OR FACING A PERSONAL CRISIS.
- THE COST OF THIS PROJECT IS APPROXIMATELY \$13 MILLION
- WE HAVE RECEIVED WETLANDS AND PLANNING AND ZONING APPROVALS. APPLICATION FOR BUILDING PERMITS WILL OCCUR IN MARCH, 2009.
- THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW YMCA WILL EMPLOY APPROXIMATELY 150 TRADES PEOPLE, WITH 75 FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME PROFESSIONALS ULTIMATELY EMPLOYED IN THE NEW FACILITY