

Throughout the last few months, we had the opportunity to speak directly to the voters while we were canvassing the city for our bid at re-election. As many of you have heard, the biggest topic on the minds of the people was their disappointment in the lack of progress with downtown redevelopment. Over the course of the last few years, we have heard many things about this project. Statements like, “this is a complicated project”, or “there are many moving parts”, seemed to come forth repeatedly during public meetings. Frankly, the citizens of Derby and this Board are tired of excuses. For the last 2 years, we have worked in good faith with the Preferred Developer and the agreement we INHERITED in 2005. In the past two years we have not seen enough progress from their team, either visible, or behind the scenes to give us a level of comfort to move forward with these developers. All we have seen are pictures.

It is time we take a stand, as the Derby Board of Aldermen, in representing the citizens of Derby, and expressing our disappointment and lack of faith in this project.

We have run out of time and patience with our Preferred Developer, and we will not accept further delays. We do not have confidence in his “conceptual” plan and we lack confidence in his ability to move this project forward. We deserve a beautiful downtown and we deserve to have a developer that is less concerned about public assistance and more concerned about seeing this project come to fruition. We are a City uniquely positioned at the confluence of two rivers, with a greenway, special taxing district and direct access to Routes 34 and 8. We are and will continue to be extremely marketable. We are confident that this site is unique and full of potential. We are tired of being stymied by this project and its complicated, renegotiated PDA, and we are tired of seeing an area of our small community being tied up because the developer is waiting for an unrealistic amount of public assistance. We are just plain tired and we deserve better.

No one would like to see our South side of Main Street redeveloped more than this Board of Aldermen. We understand the importance of this project, not only for the city of Derby, but for the entire region. Therefore, in response to the will of the voters, I would like to motion that we, the legislative body of the City of Derby, due to the lack of progress in the Downtown Redevelopment project, request that this administration expeditiously terminate its relationship with the Preferred Developer and extricate the City from the Preferred Developer Agreement with all due legal process.