



## CITY OF VERONA

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June 1, 2005

Mr. Michael King, Director  
Community Analysis and Planning Division  
Dane County Department of Planning and Development  
30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 402  
Madison, WI 53703-2558

RE: City of Verona Urban Service Area Amendment

Dear Mr. King:

The purpose of this letter is to supplement my oral testimony of May 25, 2005 in support of the Urban Service Area amendment application submitted by the City of Verona. In addition, I want to take the opportunity to discuss issues raised by the County Executive regarding the application.

My primary support for the amendment stems from the approval process itself. The areas included in the application have been a part of the City's Master Plan since 2002, when we adopted our residential phasing plan. Both the City Plan Commission and the City Council have adopted the Master Plan as well as the City's application for the urban service area amendment. They adopted the plan only after careful thought and consideration about the future of the City and after public input into the plan. In short, the City has conducted appropriate due diligence and is supportive of the application.

After the City approved the application, it was submitted to you and your staff for a recommendation to the DNR. As always, the City staff worked closely with your staff to identify and clarify issues that may impact water quality. Since the application was essentially the same application that was withdrawn by the City in September, 2004, much of the analysis on the application had been completed and needed only an update. The 2004 application had received a favorable review by staff and was going to be recommended (with conditions) to the RPC prior to the City's withdrawal. It is noteworthy to point out that the 2004 application did not receive comment from the County Executive.

The application requests that 418 developable acres be brought into the City's urban service area. The acreage is only 17% of the total 2418 acres that could be brought into the USA. I feel strongly that both our staff and the staff from Community Analysis and Planning Division have professionally analyzed the application and have, in good faith, recommended approval of the application.

Now let me address some of the issues raised by the County Executive in her letter to you dated May 25, 2005. In her letter, Ms. Falk objects to the City's application on the grounds that it will adversely impact Badger Mill Creek and it will have negative traffic and farming impacts. Lastly, she objects because the application may be objectionable by the town of Verona.

It is true that development may create adverse impacts. However, the purpose of planning and regulation is to mitigate the adverse impact. Indeed, proper planning strives to direct and accommodate growth and development but minimize adverse impacts on the environment. Such is the case in the City's application. It is abundantly obvious that the City of Verona is positioned geographically in a desirable location for growth and development. The County Executive has repeatedly indicated that 60,000 additional people will be coming to reside in Dane County over the next 10 years. Without question, the City of Verona will be one of the locations people will choose to live and it is important for us to accommodate the growth and mitigate the adverse impacts.

We strongly believe that in order to protect and preserve agriculture as well as open space, people should live in areas with municipal sewer and water service. To protect and preserve agriculture and open space, we need to encourage people to live in cities and villages where residential densities like those proposed in our application can be achieved. Will this philosophy create adverse impacts? Perhaps, but that's where good planning and regulation are important. Dane County's Erosion Control and Stormwater Management Ordinance goes beyond the requirements of the DNR to protect the county's lake and streams. The City of Verona has adopted the ordinance and your staff has required its implementation as a condition of their recommendation for approval of the USA amendment. Clearly, the Badger Mill Creek, the Sugar River, agriculture and open spaces will be protected to a much greater extent through regulated dense urban development than by allowing sparse, rural residential development as seen throughout Dane County, including the town of Verona.

Ms. Falk raises a concern about traffic that will be generated by the City's USA amendment. Without question, additional development will create additional traffic. But if you believe, as we do and evidently she does, that growth is inevitable, good transportation planning at all levels of government is essential. While the City of Verona plans for and accommodates the increased traffic that accompanies growth, we believe that Ms. Falk's position not to increase the capacity of the county trunk highway system is irresponsible. The City of Verona is ready, willing and able to work with the MPO, the county and the state to meet the ever-increasing demands in our area.

Michael King  
June 1, 2005  
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Lastly, Ms. Falk objects to our USA application on the grounds that it may be objectionable to the town of Verona. My initial reaction to this concern is that the political discussions between the City and town of Verona are not germane to water quality. It is interesting that the Exec did not take action on the recently approved gravel pit in the town of Verona in spite of vigorous town objections to the pit. **Secondly, it is important to note that boundary agreement discussions are on-going between the City and the town. In fact, the discussions to date have identified geographic areas that can, over time, be annexed to the City without objection from the town. It is also important to note that the town has not formally adopted a position on the City's USA amendment application.**

In summary, the City of Verona's request for an amendment to our urban service area should be recommended for approval. The application meets or exceeds all but one of the goals from the Dane County Land Use and Transportation Plan. The proposal continues the planned and managed growth the City has practiced for years and it accommodates the growth while mitigating the potential for adverse impact. Based on the objective facts contained in the application and on behalf of the City of Verona, I reiterate my support for the urban service area amendment.

Should you have questions about this letter or the City's position on the USA amendment, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



John B. Volker, Mayor  
City of Verona

cc: Kathleen Falk, Dane County Executive

