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Mike McLaughlin
Director of Policy and Research
Office of the Albany County Executive
112 State Street, Room 1200
Albany, NY 12207

Mr. McLaughlin,

It was great speaking with you the other day in reference to 461 First Street, Albany NY 12206. Thank you for continuing to make yourself available for discussing the needs of our community. Our organization would like to procure this vacant and decaying building from the County so that we may put it to good use for the service of the community.

The neighborhood residents and the community farmers in our project have been very vocal with me, and our organization is working diligently, committing resources to address their concerns and aspirations for the West Hill neighborhood. As you can probably tell from our most recent discussion, they are very "enthusiastic" about seeing progress. I believe by working together we can make this possible.

461 First St, which faces the entrance of our community food system project and the actual garden spaces maintained by neighborhood residents, has been vacant for years. It is an eyesore and stands in opposition to the hard-earned community health equity being developed by neighbors at our project site. This is a unique opportunity to recuperate a building through a project that is driven and directed by community members.

This would help create on-site restrooms for gardeners as well as indoor space for capacity development events. There is an urgent need to secure the safety of the community and local service projects by bringing these vacant buildings into good use. I eagerly await your response.

Gregory Sheldon
Executive Director - Edens Rose Foundation

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