



February 20, 2015

An open letter to Jay Cashman of Brockton Power

Now that the Brockton City Council has, in a 10-1 vote, rejected any possibility of settlement of the unfortunate and misguided civil rights lawsuit filed against the residents of Brockton we urge you to cede to the will of the very residents who, despite your efforts, have not rallied to your favor. Abandon this project that was dead on arrival in 2007.

Stop the Power sincerely wishes you luck on your future pursuits, including the worthy, forward thinking and well intentioned Patriot Renewables. The scale of the hypocrisy of this situation puts that very endeavor at risk as you proceed. We will be the first outlet to fully endorse and support projects that benefit both the greater good and the individuals most closely impacted. Much has been said about our intentions. This has been fed by the paranoia of the very small group of individuals that recruited you to save both this failed project and their own ill advised investments. Our intentions are as pure as the intentions of the thousands of residents of Brockton that have reached out to and collaborated with Stop the Power through the years in strong opposition to this project, due to its clear lack of benefit to the community at large.

Mr. Cashman, you did not, and will not, further build your name, your business holdings or your reputation by forcing the hand of a community that has long said no. You do not have an emotional or financial attachment to the project as do the handful of local speculators that worked to convince you that there had been a sea change in Brockton because of a mere 55 vote win by the loudest voice in the 2013 Brockton elections. Bill Carpenter came upon office, screaming about crime and taxes. Simultaneously, he and his handlers whispered about the power plant project in order to finance his own personal financial recovery and to finance the platform of concern surrounding crime and taxes in Brockton. This is precisely why Bill Carpenter has failed to deliver to you the return that he promised: a community and a City Council willing to embrace a long failed power plant project.

Mr. Cashman, Brockton's City Council did not come to this opposition rashly. It has fully formed over time. Nearly a decade in fact, through genuine and rightful resident concern, public hearings, media outreach, letters, telephone calls, online engagement, elections, winning campaign platforms, collaboration with outside groups and universities, and outreach and engagement with government and energy officials at the highest levels. This work has been reaffirmed by a favorable Supreme Judicial Court decision that not only fuels Brockton's latitude to self govern but outlines the decision to give great deference to the Energy Facilities Siting Boards concerns of lack of local benefit and public good offered by this project to the Brockton community, its residents and stakeholders.

Despite your best efforts there is simply no enthusiasm for this project from residents or our City Council. From a pragmatic, business vantage point it is apparent that the project will not be able to move forward. To cut your losses here can only contribute to your gains elsewhere. Please understand that we have a moral responsibility to protect those that feel they cannot protect themselves from a project they do not want, our City Council agrees. To make the implication through desperate legal action that their civil rights (public good) is less meaningful than those of Brockton Power is an argument that you will never win.

Stop the Power