

Scott Neitzel, Secretary  
Department of Administration  
101 E Wilson Street – 10th Floor  
Madison, WI 53703

Cindy Torstveit, Administrator  
Division of Facilities Management  
101 E Wilson Street – 7th Floor  
Madison, WI 53703



December 18, 2015

Dear Secretary Neitzel and Administrator Torstveit:

I write today on behalf of all the families and individuals of Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden to thank you and others who have graciously hosted or supported the Garden at the Hill Farms Department of Transportation (DOT) site for the past thirty-five gardening seasons. The Garden received notice to vacate the site by October 16, 2015 due to state approval of the Hill Farms Redevelopment project and sale of surplus land at the site. We did so with great sadness, but also with much gratitude for the many years our members were able to plant, grow, and harvest food for their families while enjoying camaraderie and community with fellow gardeners.

Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden is a public benefit, non-profit with liability insurance and 501c3 fiscal sponsorship. Garden assets include infrastructure to support more than 100 gardeners providing equitable access to neighbors of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. The Garden is actively working with City of Madison planning, engineering, and parks departments, Community Gardens Committee, Community GroundWorks, Hill Farms Neighborhood Association and Gardens Network to locate an interim or permanent garden site prior to the 2016 gardening season. It is our hope that many Hill Farms stakeholders will support this group as it seeks to integrate multi-purpose green space into Hill Farms Redevelopment plans as neighborhood housing and employment densities increase.

On behalf of hundreds of current and past gardeners of the Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden, we extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for thirty-five years of successful partnership, which allowed the community garden to flourish and grow at Hill Farms DOT. The Wisconsin Department of Administration's Division of Facilities Management, Capitol Police, and Hill Farms DOT staff demonstrated professionalism, courtesy and commitment to our community throughout the years. Thank you all.

Sincerely,

Cindy Statz (Garden Coordinator) and the Sheboygan Avenue Community Garden

xc: Chief Erwin, Sue Barica, Mayor Soglin, Chris Schmidt, Nan Fey, Mark Woulf, Peter Hughes, Jule Stroick, Karen von Huene, Joe Keyes, Jacki Lawton, Kay Rutledge