



FILLMORE DISTRICT
COUNCIL MEMBER



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To My Esteemed Colleagues of the Buffalo Common Council:

I am hereby informing you of my ardent opposition to the sale of the 649-acre J. N. Adam Hospital complex in Perrysburg, New York, to the Trathen Land Company, a logging interest.

This magnificent property, a mere 45-minute drive from Buffalo, was purchased by the visionary Mayor of Buffalo, James Noble Adam who then donated the land to our City. Subsequently, bonds were floated by our City and the tuberculosis hospital was built. The citizens of Buffalo paid for and built this complex; it is property held in public trust.

Not only is our City being cheated on the purchase price, a measly \$333,000 when the parcel in question was assessed at \$4 million two years ago, but the bidder has no solid, written or any plan otherwise to preserve or reuse the buildings that are listed on the New York State Historic Register. These structures, in addition, are eligible for listing on the National Historic Register.

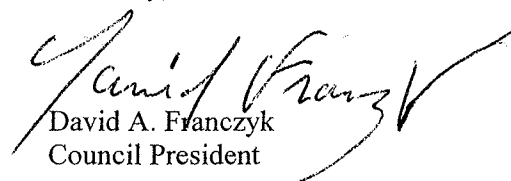
Mr. Trathen's primary interest is to log out the 100+ year old forest of oak, hickory, black cherry, hard maple, etc. (including some rare species), as well as significant amounts of trees likely dating back to the Civil War era. Over 250 different species of plants have been identified on the property, including rare orchids and many plants found only in Zoar Valley, and Alleghany and Letchworth State Parks, *all of which are State Preserves*. The lack of logging on this site for the past 100 or so years has allowed a tremendous biodiversity to evolve at this site, a rarity in the eastern half of the United States.

This Council, charged with the role of leadership and vision, and protection of the public well being, should not be cowed and intimidated by a lawsuit filed by someone who so far has exhibited only personal interest in dealing with this public trust. As a body we need to show wisdom, courage and vision in dealing with this unusual public asset, which has much more potential than a denuded forest and demolished historic buildings.

Let us continue to oppose this sale. Hasty decisions on issues of such magnitude often in the future are realized as the wrong ones. Allowing this sale will change this property irreparably; what is there now can never be replaced.

I thank you for your thoughtful deliberation in this matter.

Sincerely,


David A. Franczyk
Council President