



Town of Fairfield

Office of the First Selectwoman
725 Old Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

January 10, 2023

Fairfield Beach Residents Association
C/O Carolyn Kamlet, President

Dear Ms. Kamlet:

Thank you for your letter of January 6 regarding Penfield Pavilion and the Notice of Violation from FEMA.

The Town has determined that the failure to comply with FEMA guidelines during the last rebuild of Penfield Pavilion was due to the misfeasance of the former First Selectman in concert with criminal defendants Robert Mayer, Joe Michelangelo and Scott Bartlett.

Through the pending criminal actions, the Town is hoping to receive restitution upon conviction or through plea agreements. In the case of Mr. Michelangelo, his tentative plea agreement stipulates \$500,000 in restitution to the Town. The amount for the other two named defendants, if any, is yet to be determined.

The Town has also made a claim under its Crime Insurance Policy however that will provide very limited (less than \$100,000) for the actions of the criminal defendants.

Insofar as FEMA also cited the quality of the fill used beneath the building that came from the Julian contaminated fill pile, it has also brought legal actions against Julian that include claims for the cost of removing and replacing that fill.

The removal and replacement of the fill is governed by CT Department of Energy & Environmental Protection and US Environmental Protection Agency regulations, and the Town's licensed environmental professional has worked in concert with staff from these agencies to develop the plan to complete the work.

After careful review it has been determined that the retained engineering and FEMA consultants were not considered responsible for the actions of these players who essentially chose to ignore or override their recommendations.

On behalf of the Town's taxpayers I am incredibly frustrated by the time and resources that will be spent in total on this entire scandal. Tens of millions of dollars in taxpayer money is being wasted cleaning up this mess that could have been used for much needed projects in town. Addressing this issue has

consumed hundreds of hours that would be much better spent on other important Town matters. What was allowed to happen in this Town is an atrocity, from the criminal cases, arrests, the employees who were used in the process, and the harm done to public trust in government.

I am doing my very best to clean up the mess left in the wake of this public corruption, and to rebuild trust with the public and Town employees, by being transparent and sharing our government's work through my newsletter. I hope all of our elected officials, especially those who were in office during these transgressions, and were publicly lied to or misled, will work with me to resolve these very complex issues so we can move our town forward together.

Sincerely,



Brenda L. Kupchick
First Selectwoman

cc:
Board of Selectmen
Board of Finance
RTM