

Joseph Wm. Babcock O.D.
720 Sixth St.
Portsmouth, Ohio 45662
740-353-2191

January 19, 2007

Dear Mayor and City Council,

My grandfather, father and I have had the privilege of practicing optometry in downtown Portsmouth, for the past ninety years. Our business has been located at 720 6th Street for these three generations.

Because of the escalating costs of maintenance, utilities, and needed upgrades to my older building, I have decided to construct a new facility at my current location, 720 Sixth St. My property has been surveyed, and I have obtained architectural plans to get this project underway.

Prior to making a financial commitment and investment in downtown Portsmouth, I am compelled to contact you, The City of Portsmouth, to discuss a possible proposal, in which, you may be interested.

My tract of land includes two adjacent parcels of property, located on Sixth Street, directly east of the Martings parking lot. The City of Portsmouth acquired from the Martings Foundation, two parcels of property, located on Seventh Street, which served as the Martings employee parking lot. If the City of Portsmouth would be interested in discussing a trade, of properties, parcels for parcels, I would be available to discuss this matter.


Our property location has proven to be prime real estate for our business for decades. Regardless of the future outcome of the Martings building, I would view this exchange as advantageous to the City of Portsmouth, in that it would consolidate the Martings property, and increase the resale value of the property. Improving the property value, would increase the likelihood of some entity utilizing the Martings property.

My reasons for approaching you, are to be open with my intentions to improve my property downtown. Exchanging properties, could afford me, the ability to remain in my old facility, while building the new one, and at the same time, remaining downtown, very close to 720 6th St.

Time, unfortunately, is an issue for me. Because of increasing interest rates and costs of building, I am anxious to start construction. If you are interested, I will look forward to hearing from you in the near future. I can be reached at 740-353-2191. I appreciate your efforts to improve downtown Portsmouth.

If The City of Portsmouth has no interest in my property please let me know as soon as possible as I am anxious to get started with my project.

Respectively submitted,


Joseph Wm. Babcock O.D.