

- For Immediate Release -

**Statement of CDPG Developers, LLC on Department of Administration Advisory
Opinion Regarding the Orchard Hills Annexation**

CDPG has reviewed the Department of Administration's March 21, 2023, advisory opinion on the Orchard Hills annexation from the Town of Washington into the City of Eau Claire. We are disappointed in the Department's conclusions, which continue to include inaccurate assumptions about the provision of governmental services, including water and sewer services, to the property to be annexed.

The statements of Town residents over the past several years before the County Board, the City Plan Commission, the City Council, and in our informal development meetings has been consistent: they believe the Town is unable to provide sufficient governmental services to a future housing development of any meaningful size in the Orchard Hills area. In addition to water and septic issues, Town residents also have repeatedly voiced concerns about existing traffic safety in the area.

City sewer and water service remain the best option for essential services to any future development in the proposed annexation area. The City of Eau Claire already provides emergency medical services to this area through an agreement between the Town and the Eau Claire Fire Department. The City is also equipped to provide fire protection services to the area, and the response times of the Eau Claire Fire Department will match or exceed those of the Town's Fire Department. Traffic safety concerns will also be addressed during the development process, which we believe will be best handled in consultation with the City.

City annexation will create more affordable housing options for more residents. It will conserve land on Eau Claire's south side and avoid the urban sprawl that would otherwise occur. It represents "smart growth."

As developers and as residents of the Eau Claire area, we continue to believe that the Eau Claire City Council should again approve the annexation. Nothing of any significance has changed since the City Council approved annexation by its vote last year. Annexation remains the best way for the City to effectively and efficiently manage growth on its south side.

CDPG Developers, LLC