

August 8, 2022

The Honorable Dana Nessel
Attorney General of the State of Michigan
525 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48909



Dear Attorney General Nessel,

On behalf of the Marquette City Commission, this letter is in response to the concerns expressed by Representative Sara Cambensy in her communication to your office dated July 28, 2022, regarding the proposed redevelopment of the former Marquette General Hospital.

The demolition of the buildings and redevelopment of the site has been a standing strategic priority for the City. The City of Marquette has engaged in an extensive public process to draft, seek public input, and approve an Act 381 Brownfield Plan in order to reimburse demolition and public infrastructure costs related to the preparation of the site for redevelopment. This has occurred over the course of multiple public regular and special City Commission meetings, with additional oversight provided by a special sub-committee of the City Commission. Additionally, the City has pursued blight elimination dollars from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation under the Community Development Block Grant program to reduce the length of State and Local tax capture under the Act 381 plan, a goal further supported by the State appropriation of blight elimination funds in the 2023 budget.

The public-private partnership from local and state governments and the Northern Michigan University Foundation has enabled this project to move forward. However, any prolonged delay could interfere with efforts to obtain funding necessary to start the project. We are confident in the transparency and due diligence that has been brought to this project through public processes and encourage your office to conduct a fair and speedy review of the spurious assertions that have been made.

Therefore, the Marquette City Commission states their strong continued support for the use of State and Local funding for the demolition of the former Marquette General Hospital.

Sincerely,

Jennifer A. Smith, Mayor
City of Marquette

CC: Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Senator Ed McBroom
Representative Sara Cambensy