

VILLAGE OF AURORA



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President Susan Henking
Wells College
170 Main Street
Aurora, New York 13026

RE: Preservation and Ownership of Antique Stagecoaches

Dear President Henking,

I am writing to you today in my capacity as Mayor of the Village of Aurora to formally request that Wells College honor the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) established in November 2024 regarding the transfer of ownership of the two antique stagecoaches. As Wells College continues its wind-down process, the Village remains committed to the framework we collectively developed to ensure these vital pieces of our shared history remain within the Aurora community.

As outlined in the MOU, it was understood that Wells College would gift the stagecoaches to the Village as part of its asset disposition. This arrangement was designed to safeguard these artifacts, which are recognized as an essential part of the history of both the College and the Village. The Village, in turn, entered into a definitive agreement with Ledyard Company LLC for the continued professional storage, maintenance, and insurance of the coaches at Ledyard Farms—an arrangement that leverages their five years of successful stewardship of these assets.

In your correspondence dated October 24, 2024, you noted that recommending Village ownership was critical to validating the long-term care of the stagecoach and omnibus for your petition to the Attorney General. The Village Board of Trustees unanimously supported this partnership, recognizing it as a beneficial arrangement for all public, private, and not-for-profit entities involved.

Given that the MOU was intended to be a binding and enforceable document, the Village is eager to finalize the definitive Gift Agreement as previously discussed. We believe that securing these historical assets now is a necessary step in maintaining the cultural integrity of the Wells College/Village of Aurora Historic District during this period of transition.

We respectfully request that the College proceed with this gift by December 1st, which will allow our respective legal counsels to finalize the necessary documentation for the formal transfer of title.

Thank you for your ongoing cooperation and for your dedication to the heritage of Aurora.

Sincerely,

Janet Murphy
Mayor, Village of Aurora