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2021 OCT 18 AM 10:57

October 18, 2021

978-462-9488

Richard Jones
 City Clerk
 City Hall
 Newburyport, MA

Hi Rich: Could you please put this note into the public record for the council meeting, October 25. Thanks very much. Jim

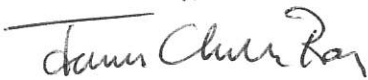
Regarding the Global Gas Station at the intersection of High and State Streets:

It is impolitic to begin a letter of supplication by first saying, "Why has it waited so long for anything to be done about this?" Yet that is certainly the case regarding this long-abandoned gas station. I will keep this letter brief by just posing three scenarios, the answers to which seem obvious, at least to me.

- 1) If this station was located at the corner of State and Congress Streets in the center of Boston, how long do you think it would take before city officials took steps to remedy such an obvious blight?
- 2) If this station was located at the corner of State and Pleasant Streets in the center of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, how long do you think the mayor and/or council of that city would stand around doing nothing?
- 3) If this station was located at the corner of State and Front Street in the center of Marblehead, Massachusetts, how long do you think it would take for tourists, with cash in their pockets, to say something like, "Someone should be doing something about this."

Now that private citizens -- most of whom, like myself, are not direct abutters -- have brought this matter to your attention, I am hopeful more or less immediate action can be taken to remove this eyesore from our own State Street. Having that station at the very center of the city makes Chamber of Commerce pretensions to our unique historical character something of a black joke, and is an insult to preservationists everywhere.

Sincerely,



James Charles Roy
 4 Fruit St