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March 24, 2011

Village Board

c/o Development Services Committee

14700 S. Ravinia Avenue

Orland Park, IL 60462

Dear Board Members,

Advisory Board

Rick Aspan

Rob Burns

Jim Morrison

Bridget Van Means

Doreen Zaborac

Pursuant to your letter dated March 17, 2011, please accept this letter as a formal request from the leadership of The Bridge Teen Center for a waiver of the Village's fee waiver policy (adopted on March 12, 2009). Please know that we respect the challenges with which you are faced, and we thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Junior Board

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As you may already know, The Bridge Teen Center is a donor-supported, volunteer-driven 501(c)(3) organization that serves teens and families from all over the Chicago Southland area. We are currently located at 15555 S. 71st Court in Orland Park, a space we opened in June of 2010. Since June, we have served more than 220 different teens, providing over 1,000 hours of FREE programs and services.

Due to increasing demand and limited capacity, we acquired the space adjacent to our current facility in January of this year. Since then, the community has stepped up in a big way to support our expansion effort. In fact, Home Depot in Orland Park provided all the necessary materials and dozens of volunteer contractors have donated their time and expertise. We anticipate completing the project without paying for any materials or labor.

Founders

Rob & Priscilla Steinmetz

The Bridge Teen Center was built by the community, for the community. To date, we have received no public funding in support of our mission. We have 7 members of our Board of Directors who reside in Orland Park, and hundreds of other Orland Park businesses and residents who support us financially. Your constituency has embraced our mission, and our hope is that you will follow suit.

Mission Statement

To provide free programs during after school and unsupervised hours where teenagers can develop mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally in a safe environment.

The permit fees for our expansion project total \$1232 (these fees have not yet been paid). Another \$300 license fee was already paid by our *volunteer* General Contractor (Mike Lunsford/Lunsford Construction), who will not use the license for any other jobs in 2011. We respectfully request that the \$300 license fee be refunded and the \$1232 in permit fees be waived.

Location

15555 S. 71st Court

Orland Park, IL 60462

(708) 532-0500

thebridgeteencenter.org

Although \$1532 may not seem like a large sum of money, it is funding that could otherwise be directed to our free programs for teenagers in the community. Our current cost to provide one month of free programming for one student is \$68. In

other words, your decision to waive these permit fees translates into 1 month of free programming for 22 students in the community. The fact that your decision could positively impact 22 young lives is truly remarkable.

Our goal is to complete this expansion without spending any of our hard-earned donation dollars on construction-related expenses. At this stage, the only pending expenses are the permit fees owed to the Village. We respect the fact that you are fiscally accountable to the taxpayers of Orland Park. Our hope is that you, like many of those same taxpayers, will see the value in the service we provide to the community and choose to lend your support to the free services we provide.

As always, we invite any Village Official to tour The Bridge Teen Center so you can see first-hand the groundbreaking facility that has been established right here in Orland Park. In the future, there will be Bridge Teen Centers in other communities – so as leaders, you should be proud of the fact that this unique concept was birthed in your own backyard. On behalf of the students and families we serve, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Two handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is on the left and the second is on the right. Both are cursive and stylized.

Rob & Priscilla Steinmetz
Founders of The Bridge Teen Center