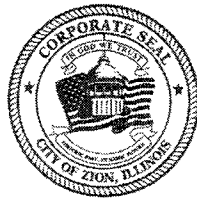


# City of Zion



2828 Sheridan Road  
Zion, Illinois 60099

(847) 746-4000  
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"Historic Past - Dynamic Future"

Lane Harrison  
MAYOR

Commissioners

L. Howard Bennett      Frank A. Flammini  
Lloyd E. DeTienne      Jim E. Taylor

Mr. Richard J. Pietranek, Sr.  
President, Deerpointe Homes  
115 Celebration Court  
Hainesville, IL 60073

January 23, 2009

Dear Mr. Pietranek:

I understand you have an opportunity to influence the future of another community as you have done for Zion, Illinois. If so, they will certainly discover, as we have, that it is an honor to work with you and all of the team at Deerpointe Homes. As the Director of Economic Development, I am honored to share that the city's relationship with you has been one of the most successful and harmonious we've ever known.

Throughout our experience with Deerpointe, we felt our goals and interests were genuinely considered in your decisions. From our request for 'Smart Growth' design elements to coordinating access and parks with neighboring developments, you consistently set standards that have now established the benchmark for residential development in Zion. The success of your commitment to good planning could not be more clear than when the *Chicago Tribune* declared the Shepherd's Crossing project as 'visionary'.

In our experience, you have always been a man of extraordinarily sound judgment and integrity; these qualities inure to your company's philosophy and operations as well. In addition, the efforts made by Deerpointe on behalf of the *Wounded Heroes Foundation* revealed your compassion and gratitude for the sacrifice of others. We are therefore delighted and honored to offer our support and praise. Your professional and personal commitments are refreshingly sincere and interchangeable, and in our experience, a very rare quality among developers.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these simple, but wholly inadequate words. The sum of a man's character cannot be captured on paper, it must be seen face-to-face, day-by-day in ideal conditions as well as times of trial and stress. We have seen your character, Rich, and would welcome the opportunity to recommend, invest or work with you and Deerpointe Homes in any venue. My very best to you in your new adventures and please feel free to call on us if we can ever be of any service.

Respectfully,

Delaine Rogers, Director of Economic Development  
City of Zion