

JAMES ALEC GELIN
3111 ROCKBRIDGE ROAD
AVONDALE ESTATES, GEORGIA 30002

December 13, 2004

Via Facsimile: 404-875-3242

Mr. Pete Pellegrini
PATH Foundation

Re: Miscellaneous Issues

Dear Pete:

I am writing about the removal of a Kentucky Coffee Tree that I planted in February, 1999 and had cared for ever since. The tree was located on the south side of W. Howard St. in Decatur, between Atlanta Ave. and Commerce Dr. When you met with me earlier this year to discuss which trees that I had planted in the area over the years would need to be moved to be saved from destruction as the PATH was constructed, this was one of the trees that I pointed out to you. You assured me that as the tree was a good distance away from the planned PATH, there was no danger it would be removed.

Sadly, I noticed yesterday that the tree in question was, in fact, gone. Another large tree has been planted in the exact same spot in which my tree had stood, despite the fact that there was much wide open space nearby in which to plant trees. I am trying to determine why this 5-6' tall Kentucky Coffee Tree was removed, and appreciate your willingness to meet with me to investigate what happened and to determine if your landscapers are responsible.

As per your request, and in connection with another matter, I am also faxing the February, 2003 memo to Beth Hoffman from Shannon Kettering, a landscaper who was working for PATH when the bike path was constructed between Old Rockbridge and North Clarendon. (Beth's cover memo to me is also faxed herewith.) Beth knows that I am sharing this memo with you and you are welcome to contact her about its contents.

This memo was the result of meetings between Avondale Estates and PATH officials, a meeting that took place to address possible remedies for the destruction of eleven medium-sized trees along the southern edge of Old Rockbridge by PATH contractors. Note that four oak trees were to be planted between Old Rockbridge and North Clarendon. Oak trees were specified, as

the majority of trees that were destroyed were oaks; however, there isn't one oak tree planted there.

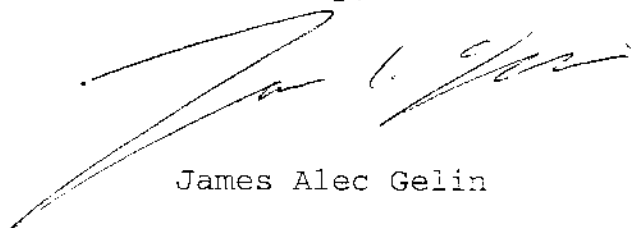
As construction wore on at the site, I also expressed concerns to Beth and PATH that PATH was cutting too close to a large Post Oak to the east and just past the Old Rockbridge entrance to the new portion of the bike path. That tree barely leafed out this year, and it was dead by mid-summer. Prior to construction, with the exception of one dead lower branch, the tree was in good health.

All of the above information has been discussed with the Mayor and Board of Commissioners of Avondale Estates. Accordingly, this is, I believe, why the City Manager, Warren Hutmacher, has been trying to call you. There is a connected issue here involving the trees that were transplanted and planted by PATH between North Clarendon and Wells St. that have not survived, but I will let Warren address that.

The final issue that I wanted to address concerns two large oak trees near my home. You may recall that I wrote the following in my letter of April 18, 2003: "Another problem that I foresee in the future involves the two very large oak trees that had a significant portion of their root system destroyed when the path was constructed west of Laredo along the railroad tracks. I can't believe what PATH did to those trees and will be amazed if they survive." For your information, half of the canopy of these trees was dead by mid-summer. I urge you to please contact Arborguard to see what can be done to save these trees if they manage to leaf out this spring.

Hopefully, tomorrow will work out for you and we will be able to meet on W. Howard. As always, thanks for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Alec Gelin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

James Alec Gelin

cc: Warren Hutmacher