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3303 W. Michigan Avenue  
P.O. Box 1126  
Jackson, Michigan 49204



Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy  
c/o Jeremy Howe – TPU Supervisor  
copy: Jason Wolf, Enforcement Unit  
PO Box 30260  
Lansing, MI 48909-7760

January 4, 2024

Dear Mr. Howe and Mr. Wolf;

I am in receipt of your email dated 12/21/2023. As owner/operator of Jim Winter Automotive Group, I am writing, as required, in response to your Violation Notice U382308012. I sincerely apologize for the oversight by me and our construction team.

In the summer of 2023, I contracted with General Contractors Collins Design-Build, Inc. (CDBI) to do site-work and complete a 15,000 square foot addition to our facility. The project required the demolition of a vacant building, formerly occupied by Citi Bank (now Huntington Bank through multiple mergers and acquisitions) on a parcel of our property that was owned and managed by Citi Bank, throughout the building's useful life.

Pursuant to our construction agreement, CDBI and their subcontractor, Lester Brothers Excavation, Inc, worked successfully over several meetings with zoning officials in Blackman Township to secure required permits for demolition and construction. Permits were issued in the fall of 2023 and demolition took place as permitted on December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of 2023. Foundation removal was completed on December 18, 2023.

During the bidding phase of the project, I engaged 3 General Contractors who each bid the job with several subcontractors. At no point during the bid process, nor during the township permitting process, did any party to the bidding, contracting or approving of the project indicate that there were inspection or notice requirements to fulfill. Had I been made aware, we certainly would have followed the regulations as we have in all other areas of the project, to my knowledge.

While there are no immediate plans to perform further demolition as a part of this project or any future project, I have retained your notice for future reference. We have designed a potential addition for a future phase that would require demolition of our existing Used Car facility. I assure you that if we decide to engage in that, or any other project requiring demolition, I have updated our files to make sure that the issue is addressed during our bidding and permitting process.

*"There is a difference in automobile dealerships and that difference is People & Service."*

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Though retroactive remedy of these violations is impossible as the debris has been removed, I am available to discuss any thoughts or concerns you may have. Please know that the demolition was done to an unattached vacant building more than 100 feet away from any area occupied by employees or members of the public and was performed by licensed contractors in sealed-cabin equipment.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions or instructions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard S. Walicki", written over a horizontal line.

Richard S. Walicki – President  
Jim Winter Automotive Group