

April 11, 2008

Mr. Stephen T. Rumble, AICP, PCP, PWS  
Community Development Director  
City of Novi  
45175 W. Ten Mile Road  
Novi, MI 48375

Re: *Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment*

Dear Mr. Rumble:

We have recently been made aware of certain language in the City of Novi Zoning Ordinance relating to the submittal of Preliminary Site Plans that exclude **Professional Surveyors** from the list of licensed professionals accepted by the City of Novi. Specifically, we are referring to the Preliminary Site Plan Checklist Item 2 requirement, that reads in part,

“...Name, address, phone number and seal with signatures of Michigan-licensed architect, engineer, **designer**, landscape architect or planner who prepared the plan.”

Although I'm sure it was an oversight, unfortunately, **Professional Surveyors** (formerly known as Registered Land Surveyors) were “left out” of the listed professionals qualified to prepare and seal Preliminary Site Plans.

As a matter of some general background regarding the surveying profession, please note that Professional Surveyors perform the Certified Boundary Surveys, Architectural Surveys, Tree Surveys, and Wetlands Limits & Location Surveys required by the City of Novi Ordinance. Likewise, Professional Surveyors calculate land areas, define parcel splits, prepare easement descriptions, promulgate the Public Land Survey Corners, and prepare both subdivision plats and Condominium Exhibit “B” documents for recording.

Act 103, Public Acts of 1992 reads: “ Practice of Professional Surveying” means *providing professional services such as consultation, investigation, testimony, evaluation, planning, mapping, assembling, and interpreting reliable scientific measurements and information relative to the location, size, shape, or physical features of the earth, the space above the earth, or any part of the earth, and the utilization and development of these facts and interpretation into an orderly survey map, plan, report, description, or project. “Professional Surveyor” means a person who, by reason of knowledge of law, mathematics, physical sciences, and the techniques of measuring land acquired by professional education and practical experience is qualified to engage in the practice of professional surveying.*

Our request is written in behalf of all professional surveyors in the State of Michigan, most of who belong to the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors (a 67 year old state wide professional organization with over 1100 members known as “MSPS”, whose mission is to advance the surveying profession and to enhance the competency and professionalism of its members). The representatives of MSPS, Ray Donnelly, P.S. and Greg Ash, P.S., that visited your Community Development Department on Friday March 29, 2008 and spoke with P. Mark Spencer, planner with the City of Novi about this matter, are members of MSPS as well as the SE Chapter of MSPS. They are also members of the National Society of Professional Surveyors (NSPS) and the American Congress on Surveying and Mapping (ACSM). Both Ray and Greg are private surveyors who perform surveying, feasibility studies, planning, and site development consulting in many communities throughout SE Michigan. Their professional practice and experience is typical of many other surveyors in the SE Chapter region (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, Washtenaw, Monroe, and St. Clair counties).

Therefore, we respectfully request that on behalf of the Professional Surveyors of Michigan, the aforementioned zoning ordinance be amended to include Professional Surveyors as a relevant and qualified discipline. The simple fix is to substitute one word “**surveyor**” for “designer”. The word “designer” is not defined in any statute – we do recommend that the entity called “designer”, should be eliminated regardless of the outcome of this request.

Sincerely,

Kelly-Marie Fedele, PS PE  
President

cc: P. Mark Spencer, Planner City of Novi  
Raymond J. Donnelly, PS  
Greg L. Ash, PS  
Roland F. Self, Executive Director, Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors