

October 9, 2024

Hon. Colleen Meeder, Mayor
Village of Sherman
111 Mill Street, P.O. Box 629
Sherman, NY 14781

 **THE
CORNERSTONE**
Restaurant & Bakery

716 234 4002
Main St, Sherman

Re: Village of Sherman 2024 NY Forward LOS

Dear Mayor Meeder,

This letter is in strong support for the Village of Sherman's \$4.5 million NY Forward Application to the NYS Department of State for the Village of Sherman's revitalization of Main Street.

We are the business owners located at 104 East Main Street, in the heart of downtown Sherman on the corner of East Main Street and Franklin Street. The NY Forward Award would give us the opportunity to assist my restaurant with building improvements under the Small Projects Fund. The Franklin Street side of the building will be the optimal location for the proposed mural depicting Sherman's history, culture, and character greeting people coming in from I-86.

Downtown revitalization would attract businesses, residents, and visitors by increasing access to the trail systems, revitalizing empty retail spaces to diversify the downtown's current offerings, and establishing We Rock the Spectrum – Sherman as the anchor business drawing families from the region. I am enthusiastic to hear that along with lodging, an eatery is the most essential business within a trail town. The proposed improvements to our local trail will go hand in hand with business development.

We have attended the stakeholders meeting and met with two of the Village's architects from Clinton Brown Company Architecture and Barton & Loguidice in preparation for our 'shovel readiness'. We are excited and look forward to making improvements that specifically meet our needs at the restaurant in providing for locals and visitors alike. Since the COVID Pandemic we have been blessed with a growing business.

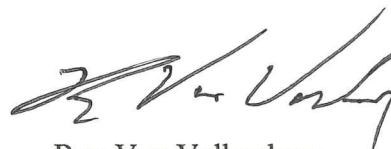
Once again, we fully support this important grant application and the community's commitment to improving the lives of people who live and work in Sherman.

If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us directly: 716-269-9185

Sincerely,



Becky Van Valkenburg



Roy Van Valkenburg

RF & B Properties, LLC
The Cornerstone Restaurant