COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

DISTRICT COUNCIL

HOPE TOWN DISTRICT, ABACO

Walter Sweeting, Chief Councillor, Jeff Key, Deputy Chief Councillor - Diane Bethel Glen Laing - Hasiel McDonald - Roy Russell - Ross Thompson

May 23, 2005

Capt. Anthony J. Allens
Port Authority
P.O. Box N-8175
Nassau, N.P., Bahamas Tel: (242) 326-5677 Fax: (242) 322-5545

Dear Capt. Allens,

At our District Council meeting of May 19, 2005, we were meeting with the Passerine developers representatives to discuss approval of a proposed Temporary Dock at Great Guana Cay.

After some discussion with these gentlemen regarding the project and while our meeting was still in progress, a letter from your office was received from you on our Council office fax machine granting approval for this construction. The letter further stated that approval had also been granted by the Minister of Transport and Aviation and that Passerine should now proceed to get a building permit for the project.

All Council members at our meeting were appalled that such a letter should appear with no prior notice to our Council. This proved to be a great embarrassment to the Council and made us all feel totally ineffectual.

Even with your letter, the Council in all good conscience, was unable to grant a permit. As you are well aware, this project is a very controversial one here in Abaco. For us to grant a permit simply upon your direction would cause endless difficulties for both Council members and all Abaco Local Government personnel.

Our embarrassment was magnified due to the fact that also present at this meeting were a number of the dissenters toward the Great Guana Cay Passerine project, including their counsel. The appearance of this letter, particularly at this time, made the government of the Bahamas appear as if they did not require or want local government input on a project of this nature. This is one of the major concerns that is fueling the dissenter's law suit in the first place.

In the past we have been instructed to accept plans, study their appropriateness to the area and make recommendations accordingly. Our recommendations were then sent to the Port Authority who would pass final judgment on the matter at hand. Permits were issued by this Council when we received a favorable response from your office.

In this case, this local Council seemed to have been by passed in the initial presentation of this project. Was this the result of an administrative error, a directive from some central government agency, or a change in general procedures?

Please advise as soon as possible the reasoning behind this embarrassing action.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Walter P. Sweeting, J.P.
Chief Councillor

Cc: Office of the Prime Minister
Minister of Transport and Aviation
Minister of Agriculture and Local Government
Member of Parliament – South Abaco
Member of Parliament – North Abaco
Senior Island Administrator – Marsh Harbour