

Dear Council Members,

I am writing this letter, as chairman of the Coventry High School Walls Code Compliance Committee, to request funding in the amount of \$43,200 for GPR testing of select exterior masonry walls at the Coventry High School.

After working to obtain seismic code exceptions beneficial to our project, DiBlasi Associates performed a structural evaluation of the walls and determined that with these exceptions the walls were satisfactory for seismic loading. However, during this evaluation it was found that the exterior walls do not have adequate strength for direct wind loading.

This analysis, however, discounted the presence of reinforcement that should have been installed per the plans, based on the premise that prior GPR testing located deficiencies in other walls. Therefore, in an effort to reduce the scope of the required rehabilitation, additional scanning is desired for these walls in order to fill in the gaps. This would hopefully reduce the number of walls that need rehabilitation, decreasing the potential construction cost and impact to the structure.

Representatives from DiBlasi and the GPR scanning firm met on site to perform a test scan. They were able to refine the estimate and DiBlasi verified that the results will meet their needs. The scanning will be performed around wall-mounted structures that cannot be removed.

In addition to the direct scanning, which costs \$13,200, the cost includes already performed services, such as field visits and code research to minimize loading requirements. It also includes preparation of wall drawings for use by the GPR technicians, 5 days of field visits to direct the scanning work, and preparation of a report.

DiBlasi's work on this project has, up to this point, already greatly reduced the scope of needed rehabilitation. While this issue was not one that was expected, based on the initial findings in the Silva report, this scanning is a needed step to verify that the missing reinforcing is truly not present. This will avoid any unnecessary and costly construction in the future.

Thank you for your consideration, and do not hesitate to contact me with any additional questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Edward M. Cofrancesco, PE
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