

Murphy, Meriden Chamber of Commerce, Elected Officials and Local Residents Rally Support for Alderman Motors, Release Letter to GM Asking to Reverse Course

Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) was joined at a press conference by representatives from Alderman Motors, the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, local elected officials, and Alderman customers and supporters to rally support to keep the dealership open.

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Contact: Kristen Bossi

(202) 225-4476

MERIDEN, CT - Today, Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) was joined at a press conference by representatives from Alderman Motors, the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce, Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, local elected officials, and Alderman customers and supporters to rally support to keep the dealership open. Murphy also released a letter he is sending to General Motors (GM) requesting that they reverse their decision and keep Alderman in business, along with over 1,000 petitions he received from local residents in support of the dealership.

"Alderman Motors has been a mainstay in this community for generations, and ending the relationship with Alderman would simply be a bad business decision for GM. I'm standing here today with this group, loyal Alderman customers and Meriden business and community leaders, to show that there is strong local support for Alderman and GM should rethink its decision," said Murphy.

Despite Alderman's 85 years of service to the community and its exceptional rating on GM's internal scale of dealership performance, GM recently informed the business that their longstanding relationship would cease to exist in October 2010. Murphy, the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce, and other elected officials have urged GM to reverse their decision.

"With over 80 years as a GM dealer, we have been fortunate to become a part of many of our customers' lives. However, our family and employees now face a need of our own for which we need the community's help. Based on GM's own formula, we exceeded their overall criteria to remain a GM dealer, so this decision makes no sense. We are glad to have a partner in Congressman Chris Murphy, Attorney General Blumenthal, Mayor Michael Rohde and the entire greater Meriden community as we try to fight this decision," said Scott Platt, Co-owner of Alderman Motors.

Over the summer, Murphy helped Alderman representatives get in touch with GM to discuss the situation. Over the last few weeks, the Platt family approached Murphy at a town hall meeting in Meriden to update him on their progress. They asked Murphy to contact GM directly and provided over a thousand petitions signed by customers and supporters to the Connecticut Congressional delegation. Murphy and U.S. Senator Joe Lieberman are sending a letter to GM, along with the petitions, asking that they reverse their decision to sever their relationship with Alderman.

Murphy and Lieberman wrote: "With little explanation from GM, this highly successful GM dealership will face an uncertain future without your intervention. I encourage you to reconsider your decision and work directly with Alderman to ensure that this profitable and important Connecticut business can continue to serve GM customers for the next 80 years."

Sean Moore, President of the Greater Meriden Chamber of Commerce, said: "A sustainable economic recovery is all about maintaining and creating jobs, and that is exactly what we want for Alderman Motors. Alderman has been in business for 85 years employing residents, paying taxes and running a great business here in Meriden. We want the opportunity for another 85 years. The support of the central Connecticut community speaks volumes about the commitment we have come to appreciate at Alderman, and simply want from GM."

Blumenthal said, "GM's closing Alderman Motors, a pillar of the Meriden community for 85 years, defies common sense and financial self interest. The dealership more than met GM's criteria to remain open, but the company inexplicably and illogically ordered it closed. GM has admitted error and rescinded dealership closures before, and it should do so again with Alderman Motors. I am demanding the company provide its formula and criteria for closing dealerships, as well as Alderman's scores and other relevant materials. If GM made mistakes, it must reverse itself and keep Alderman open. I expect a prompt answer to my November 18 letter."

For more information, go to <http://www.aldermancadillac.com/>.

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