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Subject: Comments re: Midtown Proposal
Date: Monday, July 6, 2026 11:32:05 AM

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Following are the notes from which I provided my testimony to the Planning Commission on June 29 re: development of Midtown to possibly include a data center and storage facility (additions in parentheses).

“Good evening, my community,

My name is Dr. Deborah Pasha. I have been a resident of the City of Milwaukee for 39 years, and have lived on N. 61st St in the Alameda section of Enderis since 1993, which is 2.5 miles from Midtown. I raised my children here, worked with neighbors to keep this part of the City. This is my neighborhood (affixed image). I served as a public health nurse for the City and then the State for a total of more than 26 years during this time. My doctoral degree is Multidisciplinary, focused on environmental impacts on public health, specifically effects of the built environment. Recently I served as part of the West Side Plan committee during 2025 (and 2026).

The northwest and central city of Milwaukee are still recovering from the historic industrial and chemical degradation and loss of jobs in this corridor, which have caused worse health and social outcomes as compared with adjacent areas and in some areas, worse than third world countries. On an ongoing basis our community has asked for healthier environments and the return of jobs to sustain the residents, neither of which would be provided by the proposed use of this property for a data center and storage facility at Midtown. It may even introduce more of the same harm and pollution to this already struggling population, and be a burden to the greater community, to the borders. I am opposed both to the siting of this scale of data center and storage facility in this mostly residential area, and to rezoning the area to accommodate heavier industrial operations than have been previously permitted.

This proposal is not transparent and in fact contains inconsistencies that warrant investigation. For example, the assertion that one side does not face the public is not possible as all sides face the community. The generator plan as described does not sound safe. The pollutants created and discharged from closed loop water system have not been clarified. One wonders who will profit from this business, a corporation who has not been named and likely is not local. Additionally this proposal was not reviewed throughout the 2025 West Side Plan meetings, or if at all in March 2025 as they have claimed but which has not been confirmable to-date. (And it was not presented to the community in the March 2026 plan).

Environmental concerns are significant with this size of data center, and include heat, light, noise, energy and water use and pollutants. We need to begin by completely researching and understanding the environmental impacts of such a proposal, and always to ensuring that accountability for utility use and environmental pollution is completely assumed by the corporation. We should expect any property owner or business operating in the City,

actually contributes positively to benefit and protect our community. These must be regulated by the City. We need your help with this, please...

I ask that the City approve a moratorium barring approval of data centers and storage units while the true facts and economic and environmental impacts of this and similar proposals can be thoroughly discovered and vetted with the community. We can do better, together.”

(Also, during the hearing the private corporation eventually revealed some issues associated to the closed loop water system. Operation requires daily additions of water to replace water lost through evaporation. And when they periodically perform replacement of the contents, the water is completely disposed and taken away due to their use of toxic forever chemicals in the closed system. The introduction of harmful chemicals locally and their disposal have numerous issues to be seriously considered. Plus their plan raises yet another potential resource issue, as over time removal of significant amounts of water from our water basin will lower the level of available water in our region including Lake Michigan).

Thank you for your thorough consideration of the concerns that are being raised related to this and similar proposals. Please let me know if you have questions about my comments, and if I may provide additional assistance.

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