

November 3, 2005

To the Honorable Common Council  
Zoning, Neighborhoods and  
Development Committee  
City of Milwaukee

Dear Committee Members:

File No. 050397 is an ordinance amending the Flood Plain District boundary along a portion of the Lincoln Creek, in the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic Districts. This ordinance will amend the boundary of the 100-year flood plain along Lincoln Creek and remove 2,000 homes from the floodplain. This revision may affect the insurance rate of home owners who currently buy floodplain insurance. The flood mitigation project was started in 1997 by MMSD after many years of neighbors being hit by flooding. Substantial changes were made along the creek that removed two miles of concrete and added detention ponds to keep the water within its banks during heavy rainstorms.

The major components of the project are two large detention basins, including the 32-acre Green Tree Detention Basin located between North 46th and 50th streets, just north of West Green Tree Road, which is capable of storing up to 52 million gallons of water during a rainstorm. Although the project's main focus was to reduce the risk of flooding for homes and businesses from the 1 percent probability storm, it also included measures to enhance the attractiveness of the corridor; improve water quality; restore, stabilize and protect eroding banks; and provide a suitable habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. MMSD only had to acquire three homes to make way for the project.

On November 2, 2005, an afternoon open house was held to give constituents an opportunity to meet with local Aldermen, Department of Public Works, Department of City Development and Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District representatives to ask questions and view maps of the proposed and current 100 year floodplain. The open house was well attended and several people asked various questions relating to the mitigation plan, flood insurance, basement flooding and sewerage backup. Following the open house, a special City Plan Commission meeting and public hearing was held and at that time there was no opposition to the proposed floodplain amendment. Since the proposed revision to the 100-year floodplain is consistent with FEMA's letter of map amendment (LOMR), the City Plan Commission at its special meeting on November 2, 2005 recommended approval of this zoning change.

Sincerely,

Rocky Marcoux  
Executive Secretary  
City Plan Commission of Milwaukee

cc: Ald. Hamilton  
Ald. Davis, Sr.  
Ald. Wade  
Ald. Puente  
File