

From: Dave Weidenbach [mailto:yes642@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sat 5/14/2011 12:09 PM
To: Schiller, Lynn
Subject: Wal-Mart Grocery Development

Lynn Schiller
City Plan Commission
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

May 14, 2011

Dear Ms. Schiller:

I am writing to you and the members of the City Plan Commission to convey my objection to the proposed Wal-Mart grocery store at 70th-72nd and Main Street. I live at 534 S. 72nd Street and have lived in this neighborhood for 18 years. This proposed development is right on my corner. This development is about two issues: land use and owner occupant.

This neighborhood that I live in, although not perfect is a nice little neighborhood that is surrounded by State Fair on the west, Bluemound to the north (with I-94 going through it), Hawley Road to the east and the Hank Aaron Trail to the south. With the exception of some small businesses and light industrial on 70th and Main St., this is a residential neighborhood. This development will not utilize this land properly because of the increase in traffic, crime, litter and invasion of the neighborhood from people with no interest in preserving what we have. There are many grocery stores, pharmacies, butchers in this area that are properly established in commercial/business districts. We don't need another grocery store especially one right across the street from me and my neighborhood.

The next issue is owner-occupant. The City should not be fooled by this owner-occupant. Without getting too detailed, Wal-Mart has a poor track record. I have done extensive research on Wal-Mart. They come into an area and within 2 to 3 years most of the small businesses fold because they can't compete. What benefit is there to create low paying, low benefit jobs if they replace higher paying, higher benefit jobs? What benefit is there to having locally owned businesses fold?

At the neighborhood meetings and at the first City Plan Commission hearing Wal-Mart stated that they will use local suppliers for their fresh foods. However, Wal-Mart will dictate the prices to the local suppliers and when the suppliers can't meet that price Wal-Mart will go elsewhere. Wal-Mart can't use local growers during the winter and spring because of our climate too. Thus, they will depend on their cut throat distribution system from afar. They will be like a lot of national chain stores and import their goods. This will mean, "Not so fresh." When they bring this point up they are trying to deceive the City.

Additionally, lower tax revenue will be realized because they take advantage of loopholes (many large corporations do this). I'm just saying that the city should not count on the revenue because of their practices. Also, Wal-Mart has the most employees on BadgerCare, which is a burden on this community and State. Lastly, having a Wal-Mart grocery store will not keep the money in the local community. Instead, the money will go back to Arkansas instead of staying here helping the citizens of Milwaukee.

I applaud the Commission's 2-1 vote against recommending the development. I ask you now to vote to recommend the disapproval of this development on Monday, May 16th.

Thanking you in advance,

Dave A. Weidenbach

534 S. 72nd Street
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214