

Lee, Chris

From: Midtown Neighborhood Alliance <thealliancemke@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 30, 2024 10:11 AM
To: planadmin; Lee, Chris
Cc: lamont; antonio@walnutway.org; Teresa Thomas-Boyd; eramirez@mccwi.org; tammyrivera@socmilwaukee.org; Stamper II, Russell; Stamper II, Russell; Ellzey, Dameon; Bauman, Robert; Young, Angel; Oatis-McMiller, Glenda; Brostoff, Jonathan; Jackson, Benjamin (CC); Westmoreland, Lamont; Coggs, Milele; Jackson, DiAndre; Zamarripa, JoCasta; Taylor, Larresa; Moore, Sharlen; Burgelis, Peter; Perez, Jose; Spiker, Scott; Dimitrijevic, Marina; Mabel Lamb; Danell Cross; Melody McCurtis; betty glosson
Subject: Request for Date and Time of Voting on Growing MKE Plan

Dear Members of the City Plan Commission,

I am writing to you in my capacity as an organizer with the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance, a trusted and resident-led community organization with deep expertise in effectively engaging the Midtown community. We request that you provide the date and time for the upcoming vote on item 2, the proposal to adopt the Growing MKE Plan as an element of the City's Comprehensive Plan.

In alignment with the well-founded recommendations communicated by Metcalfe Park Community Partners, we assert that the Growing MKE plan should not be brought up for a vote before the first scheduled City Plan Commission meeting of 2025. The Midtown Neighborhood Alliance fully supports and echoes the following recommendations:

- 1. Pause the Approval Process for the Growing MKE Plan:** Immediate action is necessary to prevent the potential disenfranchisement of the communities you serve.
- 2. Initiate a Comprehensive Community Engagement Process:** We propose a six-month period to engage 25% of Milwaukee's population through a co-created strategy led by community-based organizations, ensuring no resident is left behind. This process should include:
 - Updating the survey to reflect the proposed changes of the Growing MKE plan, rather than using generalized questions.
 - Conducting various educational sessions on zoning, including its history and current implications.
 - Prioritizing resident engagement by allocating a budget to support the capacity of community-based organizations to conduct intentional and effective resident engagement throughout the planning process.
- 3. Incorporate Our Feedback into the Revised Plan:** After adequate consultation, gather all feedback and ensure it is visibly integrated into the plan's new draft.
- 4. Undertake a Thorough Harm Analysis:** This should detail potential adverse impacts and include clear, actionable measures to mitigate them.

We deeply appreciate the Commission's efforts to hear the concerns and viewpoints of community members regarding the Growing MKE Plan. It is crucial to emphasize the importance of utmost transparency and prioritizing the resident voice and experience in this process. This approach is vital to ensuring that the plan genuinely reflects the needs and aspirations of all stakeholders.

The Department of City Development has expressed a willingness to engage in additional dialogue with neighborhood groups and residents who have questions about the Growing Plan. We are eager to participate in these discussions over the next six months and co-create the engagement process with our Midtown

community. As Commissioner Crane has acknowledged, engagement with inner-city communities requires an incredibly different approach. While the City believes they have had extensive engagement with the community, it has become clear that the efficacy and reliability of the data gathered from this engagement are flawed, unreliable and not representative of Milwaukee as whole let alone the Midtown community.

Thank you once again for your attention and consideration. We look forward to working together to ensure that the voices of our communities are uplifted and thoroughly reflected in the Growing MKE plan, instilling confidence that the plan serves the best interests of all stakeholders involved.

Sincerely,

Megan Shepard Smith

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on behalf of the **Midtown Neighborhood Alliance**



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The mission of the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance is to "*advance the well-being, unity, and development of Midtown's residents and community.*"

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MIDTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD BOUNDARY MAP



NORTH: North Avenue
SOUTH: Highland Ave
EAST: 20th Street
WEST: 27th and
Highland; 33rd and
Villet; 31st and North