

From: [Leah Wilson](#)
To: [planadmin](#); [Coggs, Milele](#)
Subject: Oppose: Midtown Data Center DIZ 260029
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Dear Alderwoman Coggs and City Planning Commission:

I am a Milwaukee homeowner and parent writing in response to your Public Hearing notice about the proposed Midtown Center DIZ deviation. I would like the following comments noted for the hearing:

1. The developer claims that "this is a small 'data research facility,' and will not cause harm because it does not need much electricity or water," but the proposed site has server racks, wiring, outputs, and processing units, making it a data center. No matter how "small" this developer tries to assure us this operation is, there is a lack of transparency and data centers of ANY size are harmful to the communities they surround. They take our energy, water, and land and they leave behind environmental catastrophe.
2. At the June 10th open house, the developer refused to disclose the identity of the tenant for the proposed data center. We should have transparency and know who this tenant is--it could easily be utilized for AI research or training without community knowledge or consent.
3. This data center's proposed location is in a historically (and currently) disenfranchised, underserved neighborhood of Milwaukee. Sherman Park, a majority BIPOC community, has endured decades of structural violence brought on by freeway projects and limiting housing covenants. When proposing a data center in this area, the city is saying that it is OK to continue to harm this community. Unfortunately, this proposal follows the [national pattern of putting data centers in predominantly poor communities of color](#).
4. Data centers have [documented negative impact](#) on the communities they surround, including increasing energy costs, polluting water and air, and greatly exacerbating light and air pollution. There is also a correlation between data centers and [increased cancer and miscarriage](#) rates in the communities they occupy. For these reasons, among others, there is [wide bipartisan support](#) to oppose these centers. Even "closed loop" systems have huge environmental impacts and bring danger of forever chemicals leaking into water systems.
5. While this data center is proposed for Sherman Park, data centers have far-reaching impacts that will incur harm on surrounding communities. While it might be easier for richer Milwaukeeans in other neighborhoods to ignore the immediate impacts of a data center, our whole city will suffer these negative effects eventually.
6. The owner of the property, [AFS Milwaukee, LLC, is registered as a Foreign LLC](#) by the state. As a foreign LLC, they do not have the commitment and investment in Milwaukee and our neighborhoods. If Milwaukee wants to approve construction in this location, please at least work with a local company that cares about our community.
7. The [Zoning Review Matrix](#) details that the permitted uses of the land include library and offices in a primarily residential community and the developer and city have argued that this

data center brings community benefits of a library, affordable housing, and city offices. Why does Black Milwaukee have to endure the huge negative impact of data centers just to get basic community services that are available to other neighborhoods in the city without these strings attached? How is one supposed to live, work, and read in a neighborhood with the noise and light pollution these data centers bring? In addition to the strain on finite resources such as fresh water and the increase in electricity cost, this will ensure that no one wants to live near this data center, further disenfranchising an already vulnerable community.

For these reasons, I strongly oppose this proposal and would even ask that Milwaukee impose a moratorium on data center construction (similar to Madison) that allows more time for research on data centers and community impact before entertaining the offers these companies are making. Our communities deserve as much.

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