

May 24, 2010

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

Dear Committee Members:

File No. 091603 abolishes the East Village Neighborhood Conservation Overlay, in the 3rd Aldermanic District.

This file abolishes the East Village Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone by repealing the ordinance that created this Overlay Zone and approved its neighborhood conservation plan and development guidelines. The East Village Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone was approved by Common Council on December 21, 2004 to protect the distinctive and historic character of the neighborhood and ensure that new development would not adversely affect surrounding areas. However, the Alderman's Office has concluded that the majority of the property owners located within the boundary no longer wish to have the conservation overlay in place. For this reason the Alderman's Office has introduced an ordinance to abolish the Overlay District.

The Northeast Side Comprehensive Area Plan was reviewed for recommendations pertaining to the East Village Conservation Overlay District. The Plan promotes the area but does not state that the overlay district must be kept or enforced as is, or that the overlay district is essential to neighborhood conservation. The Plan suggests that the overlay district be reviewed and perhaps updated. In summary, the overlay district could be removed without conflict with the NES Plan. However, the Plan does suggest that the overlay district guidelines be revised, updated or modified, as needed to effectively preserve/conservate historic character while allowing limited new construction and infill development to occur.

On May 24, 2010, a public hearing was held and at that time several people were present. The majority of those in attendance supported the repeal of the overlay zone, and a few opposed it, saying that the overlay should be left in place. Since the proposed abolishing of the neighborhood conservation zoning overlay district would not be in conflict with the Northeast Side Comprehensive Area plan, the City Plan Commission at its regular meeting on May 24, 2010 recommended approval of the subject file.

Sincerely,

Rocky Marcoux
Executive Secretary
City Plan Commission of Milwaukee

cc: Ald. Nik Kovac