

From: Bri LeRose <brianna.lerose@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 11:15 AM
To: planadmin <planadmin@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Testimony re: Sherman Park Data Center Proposal

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Hello,

I would like to share my testimony ahead of the meeting on Monday concerning the proposed data center in Sherman Park.

It's no secret at this point that data centers negatively impact those already living in the neighborhoods they take over. Every day, there are new stories of the disruption data centers cause -- be it overwhelming the electrical grid, completely depleting the water supply, creating loud buzzing noises, and destabilizing local wildlife. And who benefits from this? Certainly not the neighborhood residents, but only the owners of these data centers and the wildly unnecessary AI products they fuel, all at the cost of taxpayers and residents. This proposed data center offers no measurable public good to the people of our city.

Not only that, but we know exactly why these data centers get built primarily in either rural communities or, in this case, in Black and brown neighborhoods like Sherman Park -- because the practice of exploiting Black neighborhoods, making living conditions worse, in favor of earning a buck for people who never have to directly experience the consequences, is well-established. This proposal calls to mind our shameful Milwaukee history of building the freeway through the once-thriving Black neighborhood of Bronzeville, forcing residents further away from necessary services, community engagement, and further marginalizing them in the process. To suggest a data center when Sherman Park doesn't even currently have a proper grocery store shows a disgusting lack of respect for the people who live there. What are your priorities, as elected officials?

These proposals that target Black neighborhoods are racist, full stop, and if any of the council people decide to push it forward, I hope they are prepared to be reminded of their craven racism and profiteering at every single one of their meetings until they are (inevitably) forced out by fellow voters like myself.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Bri LeRose
Milwaukee Resident

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Brianna LeRose