

From: E. Carter Uslabar <e.uslabar@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 19, 2022 10:50 PM
To: cityplancommission <cityplancommission@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Hackett / St. Mark's Development

Some people who received this message don't often get email from e.uslabar@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Carter Uslabar and for the last year I've lived at 2529 E. Webster Pl., Unit 7, in Milwaukee's 3rd District.

I believe that for the advancement of Milwaukee as a leading Midwestern city—to come anywhere close to competing with Chicago or Minneapolis—it's imperative that we provide adequate housing, and continue building upward, rather than outward, lest we become an urban wasteland like Houston.

Unfortunately, there is a small, but exceedingly loud set of residents who are determined to prevent the type of development we desperately need. A group is currently opposing the proposed development at 2618 N. Hackett.

[This group's website](#) tries to give the illusion of solidity to claims that are patently baseless, writing that they support 'sustainability, accessibility, and affordability,' yet they oppose high density buildings. They claim such buildings would compromise the 'aesthetics' of the neighborhood, and are so insufferably ornery about this that they've filed a lawsuit (attached below).

The irony, hypocrisy, and thinly-veiled classism and racism here are appalling.

Three out of five of the plaintiffs live in the buildings pictured below:



So a four-story, dense building ruins the neighborhood's character, but the three-story condo/apartment homes they live in are fine? I hope you can see the absurdity.

Additionally, the Downer Ave. neighborhood is home to a number of other dense structures. Many of them are run down or in otherwise shoddy condition. I can attest to this, as I've lived in one for the last year. Yet they don't seem to care about the impact that these buildings have on the 'neighborhood aesthetic.'

(I'd love to talk about how 'aesthetics' are subjective and to spurn the opportunity to build affordable, dense housing in the name of something so abstract would be unethical, but this email has already gone on too long.)

Essentially, this group is very opposed to the idea that more people, possibly of different races or economic classes (#scary) will live in their neighborhood, or that they won't have an empty lot to gaze out at.

So, this is a test, and there are no trick questions: should we let our city's development and advancement be dictated by a group of citizens who want to stifle local businesses and do nothing for [the housing crisis](#), simply because they... *don't like the way it looks?*

Or should we embrace housing of all kinds, make our neighborhoods more diverse, and support local businesses?

I'm begging, imploring, beseeching you to do the very obviously right thing.

Yours,
Carter Uslabar
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