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NIK KOVAC

ALDERMAN, 3RD DISTRICT

March 15, 2018

Dear Zoning, Neighborhoods & Development Committee,

Regarding File #170508, Detailed Plan Development known as St. Rita Square:

On 6/6/17 I hosted a meeting in the current St. Rita's church with the community. There was considerable discussion there about alley configuration and parking, as well as concerns from some nearby neighbors about the scale, the design, and several people were opposed about the demolition of two structures facing Van Buren.

Since that meeting the new alley shape has been approved by DPW operations, a parking deal has been worked out with Cass Street School on the asphalt sections of the playground across the street, and the immediate neighbors across the street on Pleasant have been consulted with and do not object to the scale.

Although the plan does include the demolition of a 19c home facing Van Buren and the 1930s St. Rita's Church facing Cass, it will include the rebuilding of the Our Lady of Pompei Church, which was torn down for the freeway decades ago and remains a remembered symbol of Milwaukee's Sicilian community.

I do wish the plan did not call for Styrofoam finishes on the rebuilt Pompei church, and on the upper floors of the senior housing, but the architect did take the Styrofoam off the ground floors of the housing as per my and DCD's request.

Overall the majority of the neighborhood is in support of this project based on the community meeting and the dozen or so phone calls I have received since the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nik Kovac".

Nik Kovac
Alderman, 3rd District

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