



## Saint Stephen Church

5880 South Howell Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53207 - 6296

December 14, 2007

City Plan Commission  
809 N. Broadway  
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Dear Commission Members:

On behalf of the Congregation of Saint Stephen, located in the Thirteenth Aldermanic District of the City of Milwaukee, I am sending you a copy of the letter that is being sent to Alderman Terry Witkowski regarding the matter of the rezoning of our current property located at 5880 South Howell Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207.

The letter to Alderman Witkowski lays out our position and concerns regarding the matter before your commission. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our interest in the matter.

Sincerely,

Reverend Richard A. Liska  
Pastor



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5880 South Howell Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53207 - 6296

December 14, 2007

Alderman Terry Witkowski  
200 E Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

Dear Alderman Witkowski,

I am writing you on behalf of the Congregation of Saint Stephen located in the Thirteenth Aldermanic Ward of the City of Milwaukee. Specifically, I am writing to you to express our support for Raymond Management Company (RMC) and their proposal for the building of two hotels on our present site. It is important to us that our property should be purchased by a buyer that would develop it in such a way that it would enrich the City of Milwaukee and be reputable in its purpose.

Our Congregation with the approval of the Archbishop of Milwaukee, Timothy M. Dolan, has accepted the offer of Raymond Management Company (RMC) for our present site. Their offer makes it possible for our Congregation to relocate itself to our new site in Oak Creek, Wisconsin. Again, I believe that this deal will, also, substantially benefit the City of Milwaukee as it will provide the City of Milwaukee with an increase of hotel accommodations and additional tax revenues to the benefit of Milwaukee. As you are aware the site is now tax exempt. Further, the airport itself indicates its desire to expand to handle future increases in customer traffic. This would continue to have a negative impact on our parish. It seems important, then, to develop the proper infrastructure to handle this increase of people with adequate hotel accommodations.

Our Congregation has already expended substantial resources in developing the plans for our new site and complex. It is our hope that through the City of Milwaukee's approval of the rezoning and approval of this project that we will be able to move forward and start the construction of our new church and complex in spring of 2008. Failure to get the rezoning could and would have grave consequences to our future as a viable parish community and would certainly have a negative impact on the moral of the community, who have for so long now waited patiently for the new complex to become a reality.

There are many reasons for our need to relocate. Our present worship site does not meet the current needs of our community. We have no handicap facilities which makes it difficult or impossible for the handicapped people and many of our elders to attend church. Further, this present area continues to grow as a commercial area , most of which is related to the growth of the airport and its needs.

Also, of concern to us is the Historic Preservation Committee's revisiting the issue of the historic value of our present church structure. The structure itself only dates back to 1927. On October 19, 1999, with the support of Alderman Jeff Pawlinski the Milwaukee Common Council agreed with the Committee on Zoning Neighborhoods and Development that St. Stephen's Church should not be designated a historic landmark. This action of the Common Council allowed us to move forward with our plans to the present time when we are ready to move forward with our relocation process. My concerns are threefold: first, it is our intention to remove aspects from the façade and exterior portion of the building to be incorporated into our new facility; secondly, the sacred elements in the interior will be removed and taken to our new worship space leaving an empty shell and thirdly, delays to our project will cause severe harm to our project.

I would be happy to discuss these issues in further detail if that would be helpful to you.

Sincerely,



Reverend Richard A. Liska  
Pastor

Cc: City Plan Commission