

Tuesday, February 2, 2025

Dear ZCT Committee,

I am writing to formally express my concerns regarding the proposed RT5 and ADU zoning ordinances.

Many community members across Milwaukee have voiced valid concerns about the Growing MKE plan, emphasizing the need for enhanced resident engagement. Although the proposed ordinances may seem standalone, they align with elements of the Growing MKE plan that residents have already criticized.

My concerns with these ordinances echo those related to the Growing MKE plan: lack of community engagement, an absence of supporting data, and ongoing opposition to 8-plex and large multi-unit developments. Zoning strategies that lack sufficient and impenetrable data are merely the opinions of those who are least impacted by the changes and should not be prioritized over the experiences of those who are, as their experiences are reflected in the very data that is necessary to make informed decisions for future planning.

Furthermore, the absence of protections for current residents is also reflective of uninformed strategies. These ordinances risk influencing market forces in a way that will lead to increased property values, which is a pathway to increased property taxes, thus displacing residents. In a time when housing security is crucial, we must prioritize the stability of existing residents.

Our demands are simple:

1. Prioritize community engagement in developing zoning strategies to prevent displacement.
2. Establish protections for current and future residents at risk of displacement.
3. Provide clear and robust data to support your claims.

Above all, we're demanding repair of the past before we look to the future. None of the strategies thus far can do so. I urge the committee to reconsider relying on trust in a process that lacks data or evidence to prove that these strategies will increase affordability, reduce a tax burden, and make our neighborhoods more walkable. Please vote "no" on these ordinances to prevent our neighbors from getting displaced.

Sincerely,


Dynasty Caesar