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Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2007 11:36 AM
To: planadmin
Subject: No Subject

Attached is a letter to the City Plan Commission from Royce A. Yeater, the Midwest Director of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Below is part of the text of this letter. (Full text copied at end of this message)

Historic sites such as the Downer Avenue Commercial District and the North Point Historic District play an important role in the understanding of our collective history, and can enrich our appreciation of historic neighborhoods. We are concerned that the 5-story parking garage proposed for the City of Milwaukee property at 2574-90 North Downer Avenue will have an adverse impact on both of these historic districts. The design and materials of the proposed development are entirely inappropriate for a historic district and its size is vastly out of scale for the pedestrian-friendly commercial area and residential neighborhoods on which it will intrude.

Simply put, a 5-story parking garage is not the right use for this site. The Downer Avenue Historic Commercial District, mostly comprised of two- and three-story commercial buildings built from 1903-1936, and the small scale residential homes closest to the Downer Avenue commercial district in the nearby North Point Historic District, will be overwhelmed by this development. One of the residences will be within 3 feet of the rear of the proposed new garage and will be dwarfed by this behemoth structure, drastically reducing its livability as sunlight is blocked and window views obscured.

I strongly agree with the Historic Preservation groups. Please dont cheapen and degrade the Downer Ave. Historic area with this eye-sore!!
Lynn