

Lee, Chris

From: Dominique Samari <dominique@p3developmentgroup.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 8:44 AM
To: Lee, Chris
Cc: Callie Tally; Vedale Hill; Samantha Burgos
Subject: 9/26 BCA Meeting: Letter of Concern

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Dear Bronzeville Advisory Committee Members:

It is my understanding that the gas station owners on the corner of North and Vel Phillips Avenue are seeking to expand their footprint and fall under the brand of Amoco. As a resident who lives less than a half block from the gas station, I am reaching out to express my disapproval of the expansion.

The Bronzeville (Harambee/Halyard Park) neighborhood is in a period of transformation. Business stakeholders like the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, Pete's Fruit Market, America's Black Holocaust Museum along with resident stakeholders like myself and others are working diligently to improve the neighborhood.

The gas station, on the other hand, seems to have no interest in improving the neighborhood. They seem interested in only one thing – profit. It is my understanding that they financially contribute to the Bronzeville Week but whatever financial contribution they make is greatly outweighed by the harm they cause through the neglect of their property and leniency in upholding the practices that keep us all safe.

Over the past few months, I have participated in neighborhood clean up efforts in partnership with Safe and Sound. The gas station is, by far, the worst commercial offender in the area immediately around North Avenue from Martin Luther King Drive to the expressway. I have repeatedly asked the gas station workers to ensure the gas station is kept clean and tidy but it is **ALWAYS** trashy. It is not until they see me coming to take (attached) pictures that they send someone out to clean up a small area. The gas station is extremely visible on the North Street commercial corridor and they do not represent this neighborhood well. They do not keep their property up and their lack of care greatly impacts the neighborhood.

Is the BP on North Avenue and Humboldt trashy? No. Is the BP in Shorewood trashy? No. So why is it okay for the gas station in this predominantly Black neighborhoods to be trashy? Why is this acceptable?

In addition, to the overall lack of cleanliness and disrepair, I often see illegal drug activity, pandering and other undesirable activity happening at the gas station to which the workers and owners simply turn a blind eye.

I have been meaning to file a nuisance complaint against the gas station for the past few months but have not yet gotten around to it. However, once I heard the gas station was seeking permission to expand, I knew that I could not let this decision be made without sharing my voice.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dominique Samari
Concerned Resident

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