

From: [Brooke Frizzell](#)
To: [Dimitrijevic, Marina](#); [SoutheastSidePlan](#)
Subject: Support for Austin Commons
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Good afternoon Alderwoman Dimitrijevic,

I am writing to voice my support for the Austin Commons project. I had the pleasure of meeting with you several years ago about The Fitz project on the Upper East Side. At that time, I was in leadership with St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and we were seeking to rezone land. As I'm sure you're aware, that rezoning did occur, and a lovely 55-unit apartment building now stands on what was once an empty lot.

All of the same arguments that opponents are raising about the Austin Commons project were raised regarding The Fitz - everything from complaints about the design to worries about parking and anti-renter bias. But the project forged ahead, and it turns out that everything is fine. The sky has not fallen, and the pigs are not flying. Instead, every storefront on Downer is leased for the first time in years. I personally have noticed no effect on my ability to park my car when I drive to the neighborhood.

We all know that we are in a housing crisis and that housing is too expensive for too many people. This development is one step toward alleviating that crisis. I have followed housing proposals all across the country. From New York City to here in Milwaukee to Marin County, California, the arguments are always the same. The kicker with this development is that people constantly complain about new construction being too expensive, and when an affordable building is proposed, they still find fault with the project.

NIMBYs are never satisfied, and we must not give in to them because housing delayed is housing denied.

Let's move this project ahead.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,
Brooke Frizzell
Milwaukee