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From: Tim Sheehy <TSheehy@mmac.org>

Date: 06/03/2015 4:47 PM (GMT-06:00)

To: planadmin <planadmin@milwaukee.gov>

Subject: In support of zoning change: file #150133

Dear Commission Members:

This is to express support, for the zoning change related to the phased in development of a school on the project site referred to in file #150133, on behalf of the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce.

The MMAC believes strongly in the future of the City of Milwaukee. That belief is backed by a commitment to help foster Milwaukee as a globally competitive city that can support high-value, high-wage jobs that will sustain a vibrant quality of life. This vision requires preparing Milwaukee's youth to be innovative and productive lifelong learners, that preparation starts with a high-quality K-12 education. The proposed zoning change opens the door to facilitating the development of a K-12 school with the strong potential to add to the mix of quality schools in Milwaukee.

Unfortunately only 35% of third graders in the City of Milwaukee are reading at grade level. In some zip codes near this location, where children are on waiting lists to attend neighborhood schools, only 15% of the 3rd graders are reading at grade level. The average high school student in Milwaukee is achieving a 16 on their ACT, below minimum standards for acceptance to most colleges in the Milwaukee area. We realize that this is an application for a zoning change, and that the Commission is not a school review committee. The MMAC supports this application for a zoning change because there is a demonstrated need, and the proposed school has the potential to meet this need by serving the neighborhood and the city with a commitment to serve children by improving their academic achievement.

For all these reasons, the MMAC is supportive of AEE LC and its application for this zoning change.

Thank you for your consideration of this application

Tim Sheehy
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