

Bob

City of Milwaukee – City Plan Commission  
Re: File No. 220766

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my opposition to the plan by AB Village Owner, LLC to change the zoning of my apartment complex, Sycamore Place from 55+ to multi-family.

My name is Robert Reinhardt. I am 76 and partially disabled, I need a walker to help me get round. However, I am able to take care of myself and do those tasks needed to live independently. My wife and I moved here 7 years ago when she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. We needed to down-size from our 4 bedroom home in Wauwatosa. She has since passed away. We liked it here because the size of the apartment worked for us. We felt comfortable with the resident population because we all had lot in common. Mostly older, retired folks who have raised a family (in some cases 2). Many of us have disabilities so we can understand and relate to and help each other. As you know the real estate is somewhat land locked and there is no residential property around it except for a nice, gated condominium community northeast of us. As such, there is very little foot traffic in and around our complex except for the residents that live here. There is also very little residential auto traffic as well. We can go out for walks on the grounds during the evening as well as during the day and feel safe.

If the owners get the zoning change, they want, that will also change. The 55+ population will be less than 25% of the residents. The rest of the population will be "multi-generational, multi-family." That means children, teenagers, young adults, their friends, pets, noise, a lot more foot and auto traffic on the grounds

and all the urban problems that come with it. And something we don't have now – crime. We're not against kids. Most of us have children and grandchildren. We just don't want them living in our backyards. We've raised our families, lived our lives and put up with all that other stuff. Now, we just want to finish out our lives in peace and safety. We really don't need all the new appliances, remodeling, useless amenities (I have yet to see one person here ride a bike), and other "shiny stuff."

If the City changes the zoning, it will be breaking an implied contract with the seniors who rented at (what is now) Sycamore Place with the understanding that the zoning would protect us from being forced from our homes. My building is one that is slated to become "multi-generational." Of course, I don't have to move if I want to stay and put up with the changes (that I don't want) that may come. If I move, I'm going to need help with packing and moving because I'm old and disabled. Who's going to pay for that? The city, the owners?? The owners have all these grandiose plans of what they are going to do. What happens if they get the zoning changes and don't follow through? If I have to go through the trouble of moving, maybe I should continue down the street to a real "seniors only" development. They have already taken 80 assisted living homes off the market. Is this going to be another Northridge Mall? The owners claim to have talked to residents here about the changes but I can't find a single person they talked to. It seems to me that their time and money would be better spent on improving what's already here. Make this place the best senior living complex in the area. There is already a good base here. But, what do I know? I'm just an old man who has lived a lot of life and spent about 45 years in business, starting and running retail and printing companies. I may be just one person but I'm not alone. There are A LOT of people here that have a lot of the same concerns and questions that I have.