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**To:** [planadmin](#)  
**Cc:** [Davis Sr., Joe](#)  
**Subject:** 140867 - Believers in Christ Rezoning Request  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2015 2:16:20 PM

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Members of the Planning Commission and Alderman Davis,

As a City of Milwaukee homeowner (5316 North 87th Street), I write regarding 140867, the proposed zoning change and development of a church, school and daycare at 84th Street and Villard Avenue by the Believers in Christ. In this instance, I must strongly express my opposition at the proposal before the Commission.

While a church and its supporting buildings are always welcome in a community, I would like to have the Believers in Christ consider some of the following before deciding to build on untouched property:

1. In the past decade, our neighborhood has sustained two major floodings from torrential rains due to sewerage shutdown. With the proposed rezoning and new development, where will the waters from the wetlands be disbursed during a heavy rainfall? To the surrounding areas? To our basements? I think I can safely speak for everyone when I say that nobody enjoys cleaning up after a sewerage dump. Unless that aspect of the redevelopment is addressed, the surrounding neighborhood should prepare itself for more sewerage clean ups. Of course, the new construction will make the manufacturers of bleach products and mops very happy once they see a bump up in their sales.
2. Attached to the wetlands on 84th and Villard is a wildlife sanctuary. What happens to the wildlife with this new construction? Will the new owners relocate the wildlife to similar surroundings? Or, will the owners just let "nature take its course" and whatever happens happens? I would like to point out to the potential new owners that wildlife is a part of God's creation as well. The situation, as it stands right now, finds homeowners and nature living in harmony. We do not disturb them and they do not disturb us. We want it to remain that way. There is a reason we bought property where we did. It isn't just for a place to live. It is because we can see and appreciate the beauty in wildlife and its natural environment.
3. Have the Believers in Christ taken a good look at the surrounding area? There are vacant buildings and store fronts in any direction within walking distance of the proposed site. I offer, as an example, the former "Bonaza Shopping Center" at Fond du Lac Avenue and Flagg Street. That property has remained idle for nearly three decades. What a boon a faith community would be to that area. The Believers in Christ should take a cue from the Greater New Birth Complex at Fond du Lac and Silver Spring. They have redeveloped the former Silver Spring Shopping Center into a viable Christian Community. The neighborhood applauds them for seeing the potential in that vacant property. I urge the Believers in Christ to open their eyes and look around the area; see the potential and value in redeveloping the vacant properties that we see on a daily basis.

Members of the Commission and Alderman Davis, please do not misconstrue this message as a prejudice against the Believers in Christ. My point is to show the potential new owners that there is viable property in the area in which they wish to build. The natural environment should not be destroyed while there are so many other locations begging to be used and already zoned for exactly the type of construction they are proposing.

Respectfully,

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