

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

To: The Zoning Committee
Elected Officials
Quasi-governmental entities
Office of the Director of Administration

Re: Growing MKE
RT 5
ADU
Zoning Ordinances
Houses and Homes for residents

To the Elected and Appointed Government Officials for the City and County of Milwaukee:

This letter is for reading during any and all discussions, meetings to pass ordinances, programs, legislation, and political approval of all matters regarding homeownership, housing opportunities, the financing of housing, and zoning changes. As the City and County of Milwaukee have, to some extent, a participatory style of government and often send polls, surveys, call for comments, approval of business establishing themselves in the neighborhood, town halls, and other forms for residents of all levels to express their concerns, approval, and disagreements with quality of life, health, appropriation of funds, and other means of performing their duties as a citizen and resident, this letter is to express my concern and disagreement with both the Growing MKE plan and any and all zoning changes at this date, in particular, RT 5 and ADU's changes.

To my understanding all of these will utilize funds designated for housing, infrastructure, and to help current residents: including funds from taxes, shared revenue, and ARPA funds. These measures place the residents, seniors, and lifetime residents in peril as the necessary transparency, community engagement, and behind closed doors discussions have not fully disclosed the required information. Once again, as a lifetime resident of the City of Milwaukee, my vote and input is that all representatives cast a "nay" in terms of approval of the aforementioned and referenced. I disagree with any and all forms of Growing MKE, RT5 and ADU's that also point to using ARPA and other funds designated to help neighborhoods but will align with the displacement of our lifetime residents, children, and those struggling for private and large corporation investment leaving the current residents without benefit and programs intended for them with a disinvestment. An example is the closing of schools to enable the passing of these zoning codes and hinder residents as there are proposed changes without safeguards for current residents and opportunities for them to provide housing and homes for others.

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There is a great lack in the revelation of plans and how it affects our communities, seniors, and purchase of homes. It also lacks safeguards for the retention of homeownership and encouragement to buy homes.

In addition, the proposed zoning changes are purported to result in the creation of an additional district. It fails to mention the economic, infrastructure, and financial impacts upon current districts and division of allotted funds.

As the promised videos of the Growing MKE plan were promised to include the questions and answers were not fulfilled, it causes skepticism about the openness and untold elements within these plans.

As the city currently struggles with basic maintenance of roads, sanitation, plowing, and other services it is unknown how these proposals will affect the quality and frequency of these very necessary operations as well as the right to learn in educational institutions. Implementing quality control measures is further squelched by the shifting of funds from current homeowners and repairing Milwaukee and current residents who have worked to build it to a "great place on the lake" plan to supplement investor costs and developers: these same options do not exist for homeowners. Allowing an influx of investors and developers (whose living residences are not inside the lines of Milwaukee) and who have no other forms of contributing to the repair of Milwaukee, ensure stabilization, nor contribute towards the crumbling infrastructure leave Milwaukee a playfield for those not vested in the community. without political representation, financing, and conditions similar to what is experienced today. There are multiple complaints issued for what we currently have, let alone, for financing development that does not include investment in Milwaukee in addition to being priced out of their homes, neighborhood, and people resources. This causes a loss of security and connectedness which comes in a repair Milwaukee plan and opportunities for residents access to funding and input into building a Milwaukee that encourages economic, political, environmental, stability, and the quality of city that draws individuals to reside in this great place.

For these reasons and a great supply of others that time does not permit me to address, I reiterate my position to halt and create a plan of repairing Milwaukee with resident input, funding resident led initiatives, investment in the city that reduces taxes for homeowners and persons who have owned their home for 30+plus years as well as allowing for residents to have access to the influx of funding for economic stabilization and increased safety (ie., lead pipe replacement).

Yours truly,

Sy Smith (esign valid)

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