

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

File in the record and read in the meeting.

To the Representatives:

I am a long-time resident in the city of Milwaukee. I do not agree with passing any zoning or other programs that do not benefit me, my children, and the community by taxing us and not giving our share of money and opportunities to have money from funds to grow Black businesses, pay taxes, help with health care and other things. When listening and watching the presentations of Grow Milwaukee and hearing about the new zoning; I do not want and do not agree with any policy that will change how we, the people, build Milwaukee, do not know what is going on, how it will happen, or how we can get the money and help our areas and our children have buildings, houses, and properties. I say "no" to all of the Grow Mke and RT5 and Additional Dwelling Units until we have a clear plan.

I came here in 1961 and moved several times until my husband and I found a very great neighborhood. I live in Grover Heights. Our area is going through some changes as those in my age group are starting to live with children or pass. I am a member of the neighborhood association and have found that it is beautiful to have a stable area where everyone knows each other, is mostly a homeowner area, and landlords live in the area. This has led to an area that is pretty safe, people take care of their land and property, and we want every dollar, service, and the best for the children and adults. We want to leave something for our children, family, friends, and community so that it is as peaceful and helps each other to grow, as we have done.

I have always been active in the community and places where I lived to fight for the rights of all. There is a memory I have of being denied access to the library and drinking from a water fountain. My goals down South were to change that. I participated in marches, helping others, and challenging the politics that barred us from progressing. We had to face racial intolerance; being denied food, clothing, shelter, gas, education, having to study in a one room school, and walking instead of bussing. I faced all of those things from a young age to seeing my children and grandchildren face those same problems. I do not want that for them or the children I see in the stores. I do not want my great grandchildren to live in a place where they cannot have the things I fought for.

As a resident, church leader, and community mother, I disagree and do not want to see any of these plans accepted. I moved to Milwaukee for the advantages of owning a home, building a community, the investment into the residents, and into the community we live. I disagree with anything that removes those privileges from them and does not use the money we are charged or money given to the city so that they progress

My fight, all of my life, is so that my children and others that I know can own homes, have a good education, run businesses, and receive from the government all of the money and benefits of the sacrifices we made.

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I disagree with the current board of zoning and appeals decision on accepting these changes as it does not have protection for us, the young people, will keep raising the taxes and not helping with our costs and cause us to lose our homes and safe neighborhood.

***Betty Smith (computer signature valid)***

Betty Smith

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Disagree with the current board of zoning and appeals .....safeguards, affordable housing outpriced and overtaxed...losing homes and turnover of neighborhoods.