

Alderman 3rd District Milwaukee WI
City of Milwaukee Historic District
City Planning Commission of Milwaukee

Re: Apartment Proposed for East Side Site (Milwaukee Journal Sentinel June 17, 2022)

My name is Kathy Herson. I own a home at 2738 N. Summit Ave. I have been there for over 25 years. I am very concerned about the proposed 55-unit 4-story apartment building being proposed at 2618 N. Hackett Ave. The reasons are many and include:

1. The area east of Downer Avenue has been considered an island of well-maintained single family dwellings since its inception- Home owners very decisively seek out this area referred to as the Historic Water Tower District for this very reason. I know that I did in 1997 when I purchased this home. It is a neighborhood like no other. We know everyone on our block personally and can count on them for anything. We also know many of the neighbors on the surrounding blocks, as it is a very pedestrian area. There is a very strong sense of ownership and it is reflected in well kept properties and strong property values,
2. There are numerous designated historic areas around the proposed site of the project- In fact, this proposed project would be dovetailed by two of them - St. Mark's Episcopal Church (2604 North Hackett Ave) and Church in the City (2648 N. Hackett Ave)- This area is known as a beautifully preserved historic area. I cannot see how a 55-unit apartment building is going to contribute to these aesthetics.
3. The proposed property is zoned RM-3 Per the document 295-503 this designation is to promote, preserve and protect neighborhoods intended primarily for medium density residential uses with an urban character. A 55-unit apartment complex nestled between two designated historic sites does not sound appropriate.
4. Parking is very challenging on the eastside. Amanda at Rep. Kovac's office will say that it is a primary area of complaints/concerns. Even with the stated underground parking that is being proposed, car traffic will be a daily significant challenge. It is already noticeable when church is in session. In addition, that block of Hackett is a one-way street with a difficult turn on to Park St. There are numerous near misses at that intersection, as people don't know the area. I would also assume that the residents who will have underground parking would have visitors, overnight guests, etc. I am totally perplexed as to where they will park in an already congested area.

In conclusion, I am very much opposed to this project. Something on a much smaller scale similar to the three single-family dwellings that were approved for Terrace Avenue in 2020 would be a better fit for our historical area and community.

Thank you for your time and interest.

Kathryn Herson
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