

July 25, 2024

Dear City Plan Commission Members,

On July 10, 2024, a Midtown resident meeting was held to inform residents about the rezoning efforts affecting the Midtown neighborhood. We were informed that the rezoning planning had been presented to other organizations and neighborhood residents since 2021. However, it was not made public to our communities until January 2024. Unfortunately, residents of several Brown and Black communities, including those in the Midtown Neighborhood Alliance target area, were not involved in the conversations nor given the opportunity to provide input on the rezoning plan.

There have been two other meetings where the City Zoning Department provided scant details to residents. It was specifically requested in each meeting with the Community Development Alliance (CDA) and Growing, as well as in several email communications, that a comprehensive presentation be given of the pros and cons of both the Growing MKE Plan (“the Plan”) and the CDA’s Milwaukee Collective Affordable Housing Strategic Plan. This comprehensive presentation has yet to be received. It was expected that representatives from the City would be present to elaborate on rezoning plans to residents, as this meeting was set to reconvene our previous meeting. However, they were not in attendance.

On July 9, some residents received an email from Amy Oeth regarding a public hearing meeting on July 29, where the final draft of the Plan is to be presented to the City Plan Council. This was also communicated to us in the meeting we held on July 10 with the CDA. The residents of the Midtown neighborhood have yet to have the initiatives of the plan presented explicitly in layman's terms, as has been repeatedly requested. Furthermore, the residents within the 15th aldermanic district were not effectively engaged throughout the development of the Plan.

We were informed by a CDA representative that voting on the final draft would occur at the July 29 meeting. At this time, we are requesting that the hearing on July 29, 2024, and any voting regarding the Plan be postponed until at least the end of September 2024 to allow Midtown and other residents of the 15th Aldermanic District meaningful and effective opportunities to give input on the proposed rezoning plan.

Respectfully submitted,

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cc: Milwaukee Common Council Members

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President

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