

TO: City Planning Commission

July 29, 2024

Commissioners: Stephanie Bloomingdale, Chair
Allyson Nemece, Vice Chair
Brianna Sas-Perez
Ranell Washington
Catrina Crane
Willie Smith
Tarik Moody

RE: 2. 240402 A substitute ordinance adopting the Growing MKE Plan as the Housing and Neighborhoods Element of the Citywide Policy Plan as part of Milwaukee's Overall Comprehensive Plan, and directing implementation Milwaukee's Overall Comprehensive Plan, and directing implementation.

Sponsors: Ald. Brostoff, Ald. Chambers Jr. and Ald. Zamarripa

To All:

As a resident of the City of Milwaukee, I am OPPOSED the GRO Milwaukee proposal as it exists, and ask that further consideration be given to Constituents of ALL neighborhoods. I ask that this item be delayed today prior to going to Common Council for approval until further input be evaluated from ALL neighborhoods, including the East Side of Milwaukee.

While it's been noted that "dozens public meetings & listening sessions have been held since 2022, Alderman Brostoff, to my knowledge and to that of other neighborhood organizations, has never notified his constituents of this proposal to potentially change the east side zoning, and the integrity of the neighborhood.

A City Wide Proposal is not the path to follow. Individual thriving neighborhoods, including historic districts should be allowed to continue as currently zoned. Creating further density in an already dense neighborhood does not bring stability to the City. It may well decrease the value of such areas, decreasing the tax base, which the City depends upon.

A STURDY WHEEL THAT IS NOT BROKEN, DOES NOT NEED FIXING OR CHANGING.

In the 60's the east side neighborhood saw residents fleeing the City. Houses were for sale in excess of a year and selling for greatly reduced values. Our 1st home, purchased in 1969, was for sale over a year, we bought it for 60% of the listing. Homes were broken up into multiple families, rooming houses and rental units and the neighborhood was deteriorating and in decline. With an immense amount of neighborhood involvement, and the support of the Alderman, in 1973, the zoning was changed to single family, with existing duplexes grandfathered in. Neighborhood organizations were established. To this day, it's been a continual struggle to keep and preserve the vitality of the neighborhood. The East Side neighborhoods have proven to be an asset to the City, and greatly contribute to the tax base of the City.

GRO Milwaukee should be concentrating in neighborhoods throughout the City that needs housing, needs renovations, where vacant land is abundant, and vacant homes numerous. To focus on already established neighborhoods that are not in decline or in need of further density is short sighted.

GRO Milwaukee's proposal for housing should not reference only people of color, but reference ALL people that need income based available housing and neighborhoods. I strongly support this objective, but I do NOT support the method that is currently being proposed.

Thank you.

Sandra McSweeney

Milwaukee resident since 1969

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Cc: Alderman Brostoff