

Van Pelt, Ben

From: Van Pelt, Ben
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Van Pelt, Ben
Subject: Re: Statement for Zoning Committee Meeting

From: Glenna Scholle-Malone <schollemalone@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 1:01 PM
To: Andrews, Rayna <Rayna.Andrews@aah.org>
Cc: Van Pelt, Ben <Benjamin.VanPelt@aah.org>

Hey Rayna!

Pray this email finds you well. As promised, please see below for my statement in the event that I am unable to attend the meeting in person next week Tuesday:

Good morning, members of the Zoning, Neighborhood and Economic Development Committee, city officials, and fellow residents. My name is Glenna Scholle-Malone, and I am both a proud resident of this community and an educator with Milwaukee Public Schools. Additionally, as a certified personal trainer and wellness coach, I am deeply invested in the health and well-being of our residents, from our youngest students to our oldest neighbors.

I am sharing this statement because I believe zoning and development decisions directly impact our quality of life, health outcomes, and the future of our neighborhoods. Thoughtful planning, with the voices of those directly impacted at the center of the conversation and decision making, can create an environment that promotes physical, mental and social wellness for all residents, while also promoting a strong sense of community. At the same time, poorly considered development can do the opposite— making it harder for families to access essential services to live healthy and well lives.

As an educator working with our most historically underserved students and families, I see firsthand how our built environment affects students. Children who live in areas with greater access to resources, healthy food, and recreational facilities as examples, are more active, more engaged in learning, and healthier overall. On the other hand, when neighborhoods lack access to these features we see increased health disparities, higher rates of obesity, and declining mental health. I also have seen first hand when parents have access to tools and resources to support their physical, mental and social well being, the whole family and

community reaps the benefits.

Honestly, we all should feel an obligation and accountability to be encouraging developments that bring long-term benefits to the well-being of our residents, especially in communities with the greatest needs. In the last few years, the Near West Side has made great strides with new developments such as Fruition and Daddy's Soul Food. The Beacon will amplify that impact even greater with access to much deserved resources, employment opportunities and a greater attraction to the area overall.

As a woman of faith, the term "beacon" means a source of light, inspiration, safety and hope. Just what my community needs! I ask that you all consider my statement as well as the voices of those who may not always have the time or resources to attend meetings like this—our children/students, families, and elderly residents. My community's health and future is at stake in decisions such as these and it's time that we make decisions that move communities from barely surviving to thriving.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

***Respectfully,
Glenna Scholle-Malone***