

From: Bohl, James
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 8:22 PM
To: Lee, Chris
Subject: Fwd: Support for Bay View Teach Town Development

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Melissa Buchholz <melissa@oddduckrestaurant.com>
Date: March 27, 2014 at 8:20:20 PM CDT
To: <Jbohl@Milwaukee.gov>, <Jperez@Milwaukee.gov>, <Wwade@Milwaukee.gov>, <Rjbauma@Milwaukee.gov>, <Nkovac@Milwaukee.gov>, <Clee@Milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Support for Bay View Teach Town Development
March 27, 2014

To Whom It May Concern,

I writing to you a letter of support for the Dover School-Teach Town Housing development. I have written to Alderman Tony Zielinski, attended to community meeting on March 24th and voiced my opinion there, along with many other Bay View residents and business owners – but I still feel that my voice has not been heard.

As a Bay View resident and business owner, I am certain that this development would benefit the neighborhood. It is clear that the developers listened to the suggestions of the neighbors and St. Lucas School and have put together a thoughtful, considered proposal. I feel very strongly that this project will enhance our neighborhood in many ways including:

- Creating a new tax base.
- Repurposing an empty city building and beautifying blighted land.
- Bringing in young professionals who need the goods and services provided by area businesses.
- Providing additional modern housing stock with ample parking for the project.
- Adding green space to a street that is primarily concrete and asphalt.

I have invested a great deal of my personal time and money into this neighborhood with hope that developments such as this would follow. This type of development is exactly what Bay View needs; forward thinking, innovative projects that contribute to the economy, vitality, and evolution of our neighborhood.

Businesses in Bay View rely heavily on local traffic to thrive – and as more businesses open, our neighborhood becomes a more desirable place in which to live, especially for young people. I can tell you as someone who has just purchased my first home in this neighborhood, properties are going quickly, and good rentals are difficult to find. A development like this fills the need for affordable apartments for young professionals – the type of people who will support our businesses and maybe eventually invest in our neighborhood by purchasing a home of their own.

There are benefits in terms of safety as well when there are more people out and about, within easy walking distance of all the things they need and want. We have already seen the benefits of the influx of new businesses and it only makes sense that new housing and an infusion of new blood (with new jobs and new disposable income!) will help our community thrive even more.

This is an opportunity that should not be quashed by a few neighbors who cry “no parking!” or lack a considered understanding of the benefits this development would bring. I’ve heard a lot of misunderstanding about what this project is about and those who don’t get it should not be able to tank it with a “not in my backyard!” attitude that exposes their lack of understanding - particularly after the project’s developers have clearly addressed their concerns more than adequately and have shown an eagerness to work toward generous solutions. Please know that despite what our Alderman may say, many in our community do fully support this project.

Sincerely,

Melissa Buchholz
Bay View Resident and Co-Owner of Odd Duck Restaurant
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