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Members of Plan Commission,

My comments are regarding the rezoning of multiple parcels in the construction of Levy Hall by the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As the Alder of the District, I recommend approval with the rezoning amendments and approving the demolition permit. However, I want to share some concerns with you partly related to this project.

It is important to note that this construction will lead to the demolition of multiple student housing units. Although all the buildings are owned by the Board of Regents, and thus the University, it is important to recognize that future expansion of the University will result in displacement of students in the future. Further, this specific construction will remove the only all-female co-op to exist in the state, which was seen as the most affordable on-campus housing option.

Through both the University's expansion and increased competition for housing between students and young professions, the student housing crisis will only worsen. The University as the primary economic and educational institution in our city will (and should) continue to expand, and I urge commissioners to recognize this effect and look favorably on future student housing projects with as much density as possible close to campus. To the University's credit, they tend to plan decades in advance through their Campus Master Plan, so we can plan accordingly as well.

It is important to allow the University to expand as it continues to be the largest driver of progress in the city, and the State of Wisconsin. I recommend approval of the rezoning request and the demolition permits.

Sincerely,
MGR Govindarajan