

CAPITOL

NEIGHBORHOODS, INC.

MADISON, WISCONSIN

January 9, 2023

Plan Commission
City of Madison

Re: 115 W. Doty PD Amendment
Plan Commission January 9 meeting, Agenda item 4

Plan Commissioners:

The proposed expansion of the Dane County jail has been presented to the Bassett neighborhood at half a dozen meetings, beginning in the fall of 2019 and most recently at a neighborhood meeting last week. The development team for this proposal as well as county staff and both Sheriffs Barrett and Mahoney have been generous with their time in meeting with the neighborhood on this proposal as it has developed over time.

From the beginning, the neighborhood has expressed concerns regarding the lack of street-level engagement the proposed jail building presents on its West Wilson Street facade. While the design team has made modest

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improvements, 50% of this facade still consists of industrial-appearing garage doors. The redevelopment proposals for the south side of this block of West Wilson Street are being given rigorous reviews regarding the quality of their exterior designs. The proposed jail expansion on the north side of this same block, which is on a busy thoroughfare for pedestrian, bicycle, and motor vehicle traffic in the heart of downtown, deserves equal consideration regarding the quality of its exterior design.

The neighborhood learned at a recent presentation that trash and recycling pickup at the new jail facility would occur in the public right-of-way, blocking both the sidewalk and a lane of the street. As noted above, this is a busy thoroughfare and one that will become more congested with the installation of a two-way cycle track on this block later this year as well as from the increased traffic that will be generated by the redevelopment of properties on the south side of the block that will bring, on a daily basis, upwards of 500 additional cars entering and exiting these buildings as well as a significant number of delivery vehicles. Bassett neighborhood residents find it unacceptable that both the sidewalk and a lane of the street of this busy thoroughfare would be blocked during the loading out of trash and recycling and feel that the design of the proposed jail building should be modified to permit this activity to occur on the jail property rather than in the public right-of-way.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jonathan Cooper