From:	Stroick, Jule
To:	Rolfs, Daniel
Subject:	FW: South Madison grocery store
Date:	Thursday, April 04, 2019 12:27:22 PM

From: jen rubin <rubinjen@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2019 11:37 AM
To: Arntsen, Allen <district13@cityofmadison.com>; Carter, Sheri <district14@cityofmadison.com>; Bachmann, Christy <CBachmann@cityofmadison.com>; Stroick, Jule <JStroick@cityofmadison.com>; Wachter, Matthew <MWachter@cityofmadison.com>
Cc: southmadison.unite@gmail.com
Subject: South Madison grocery store

Dear SSM and Members of the Truman Olson Steering Committee,

I am reaching out because you play an important role in keeping the families of South Madison from losing access to their only full-service grocery store.

I don't live in South Madison – I live on the east side. But I have been a volunteer tutor with the Odyssey Project for the past five years and spend most Tuesday evening in the Odyssey office in the Villager Mall. This has been an issue of great concern –and a topic of conversation – for many of the students that live in South Madison. This is an area that is knowns for its food and health disparities. The plans to tear down the Pick 'n Save before there is a replacement supermarket seems like very poor planning to me and shows a disregard for the wellbeing of the people that live in that neighborhood.

The City's proposed solutions of providing taxi vouchers or food delivery do not adequately address the needs of those who rely on food stamps or don't have the time to travel long distances with young children.

Tearing down this store without a replacement creates a food desert. A 2018 grocery store survey conducted by BCNA across South Madison showed that the loss of a supermarket on South Park Street would have a "high" negative impact on the community. I don't understand why anyone involved with this project would want to be part of the problem and not try to figure out a solution for the community.

Thank you,
Jen Rubin
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Check out the book I just published: ***We Are Staying: Eighty Years in the Life of a Family, a Store, and a Neighborhood***