

Options in Community Living, Inc.



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Date: January 7, 2019

To: City of Madison CDD and Planning Team

From: Kim Turner, Executive Director, Options in Community Living (Tenant of Madison Development Corporation)

Re: Madison Development Corporation's Avenue Development

Options in Community Living, Inc. has been a commercial tenant on MDC's Avenue site for the past 29 years, and in the same location for many years prior to MDC's responsibility for the property. We provide services to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities who live in their own homes and apartments. We have approximately 50 staff who work in the office building on the Avenue site; this is the building at the corner of N. Second Street & E. Mifflin streets, just behind the Avenue Apartments, which are located in the former UW Hospital building at 1954 E Washington Ave. We also support many individuals who have or do currently live in affordable and accessible housing owned by MDC.

I am writing to express our support for MDC's current proposal to add a 44-Unit new apartment building on East Washington Avenue. The addition of more quality, affordable housing is needed in Madison, and MDC does a great job housing many of our current clients at the 1954 E. Washington building. MDC also keeps their privately-owned James A. Graaskamp park in good condition, and we support their plan to further upgrade the park as part of their overall plans to improve the property. Many neighbors use this park, and also use the green space on the side of our building that faces Second Street. This additional green space would continue to be a neighborhood asset under MDC's 44 unit plan.

MDC's 44 unit plan would eliminate any immediate need to raze the building with our offices. Keeping our office building intact until we find a suitable place to move our business in the future is greatly appreciated. This allows Options to give MDC the one year notice they would need from us, as well as for us to be flexible in when we choose to move.

Thank you for your consideration of our support. We have been in this neighborhood since 1981, and appreciate all that MDC does for us. Please feel free to contact me if additional information is needed.