

Charles Myadze
1509 Drewry Lane
Madison, WI 53704

Dear Alderman Myadze,

I am writing to thank you for your support of the Raemisch Farm development on Madison's Northside. I am surprised that this opportunity has generated such opposition when it has been in the works for so long and finding the right developer was a stroke of good luck. 15 years ago my daughter was looking at buying a house in the White Tail Ridge neighborhood. The realtor told her back then to be aware that the Raemisch Farm was slated for development and as such the agricultural fields would become housing with some commercial development as well. Quite frankly, a perfect fit for the neighborhood and nothing that people were unaware of.

The Green Street Development Company is a dream come true. Reputable people willing to work with local input. They have reduced the number of housing units, given land to the local elementary school for outdoor learning opportunities and to keep the tree canopy, and allowed for over 10 acres to remain as urban agriculture. Although the idea of urban agriculture is controversial because if you don't use your urban areas for infill housing and economic development, it will push housing out into the county, displace large plots of usable agricultural land, and leave little plots of land in the city being taxed at the much lower agricultural rate. But that is an argument for another time.

So why is this development controversial? In the last decade two large, lovely apartment buildings have been built on Packers Ave. with 2 more in the process, the Independent Living facility has been built on Tennyson, several more apartment buildings have also been built just off Tennyson as has a new, cozy neighborhood of Habiitat for Humanity homes, all with nary a whimper of opposition. Could this current opposition all be because of the F-35 jets slated to come to Truax? The aforementioned newly built housing is all in the same flight pattern and no one complained. The Green Street Development Group has agreed to noise mitigation with specially insulated windows and walls so I am not sure what the issue is.

Having moved to the Northside 32 years ago from the isthmus where my house rattled whenever planes were in a landing position, I am now just about one mile from the airport and only hear regular planes when it is foggy. I do hear the F-16's fly overhead but because the training sessions are always announced on the news and the jets are gone in less than 5 seconds, they are no real bother. Yes, the F-35's will be louder as they peak at 113 dB and the F-16's tend to level off at 90 dB according to an Air Force website, but fire truck sirens, police sirens, and ambulance sirens run at 110-129dB and they are within hearing distance for at least 30 seconds. Rock concerts sustain 110dB for hours and you rarely see anyone wearing sound mufflers at rock concerts. I just don't get it. Finally the Northside is getting a large, responsible development project and we want to criticize it when every issue that can be addressed already has been? Thinking we can "save" people who might buy or rent housing unaware of the proximity to Truax is ridiculous. 100% of the people currently living on the Northside knew that Truax was an active air field before they moved here. Let's give new neighbors credit for being able to make their own sound choices.

We are glad to have an alderman like you and appreciate all that you do.

Sincerely,
Dan and Char Tortorice 1520 Drewry Lane Madison, WI 53704