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From: Daniel J Haider [mailto:djhaider@charter.net]
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 11:35 AM
To: Martin, Al
Cc: Cnare, Lauren
Subject: URBAN DESIGN COMMISSION - 857 Jupiter Drive - Amended PUD-GDP for Grandview Commons Town Center. 3rd Ald. Dist

Dear Mr. Martin and the Urban Design Commission:

We are writing - once again (sorry!) - to express our SUPPORT for the proposed Grandview Commons Town Center. Yourself and others in City government have seen - and will continue to see - a constant stream of complaints and allegations against this project. But, while it was certainly prudent for residents - ourselves included - to initially question the proposal, Roundy's and the developers have gone to great lengths to address every complaint. The consistent response from those against the project is to simply invent yet another complaint.

The root problem here is that the land in question has been a flat vacant lot for over 10 years. In that time many residents have lost the ability to visualize what the area was always supposed to be: a town center with taller, bigger buildings, and more vibrant pedestrian and vehicle traffic. The opposition group has continuously demanded that the town center be built as originally planned. What if that magically happened overnight? They would wake up to find a "big box" grocery store only slightly smaller than the Copps on south Park Street. They would find a "sprawling" parking lot. Traffic. Trucks. Dumpsters. Noise. Lights. Snow plows. Curb cuts. They would find everything that we all agreed we wanted when we bought our homes.

The new proposal merely allocates more of the agreed-upon retail square footage to the grocery store than to the other retail buildings. That's a good thing! The original 25,000 square foot proposal was naïve a decade ago, and it's naïve now. The new proposal is more realistic and so much better. We get a grocery store with more selection and more viability. The building architecture is awesome. We get a plaza for public gatherings. And so much more.

The opposition group has complained that they are not being heard. That's false! Two years of delays is proof that they are the ONLY ones being heard! There are so many of us that want our town center and our grocery store. We are here! We are here! And we deserve representation just as much as the loud - and possibly minority - opposition. There appears to be no one paying attention to the simple fact that every issue with this project has been - or could be - addressed. Even our mayor has spoken out against the project, but apparently doesn't have time to read the endless information that has already nullified his concerns. And those people living closer to the retail development should NOT get more say in this. We all knew the overall plan when we bought our homes. The fact that the grocery store will be bigger doesn't change that.

We ask that you pay close attention to the status of all issues. If a problem has already been addressed, let's move on. If a legitimate problem still exists, let's force Roundy's and the developers to address it.

Thank you very much!

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