

From: [Elliot Meyerson](#)
To: [Urban Design Comments](#)
Subject: Opposition to 5555 Odana Rd/5534 Medical Cir: 2
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 3:07:51 PM

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Dear Commission,

I am writing to comment on the negative impacts on Montessori Children's House (MCH) of the proposed development surrounding 5555 Odana Rd/5534 Medical Cir.

As proposed, the development would create undue privacy and health/safety concerns for the children of MCH. Residential balconies facing the playground is inappropriate from a privacy perspective and could result in dangerous falling objects/materials. As proposed, the structure at 5555 Odana would also result in a more closed-off, claustrophobic playground setting w/ less access to sky, which would substantially impact the benefits of outdoor work/play. This structure should be built further away, in line with the building next to it, and without south-facing balconies.

Building more housing is good. In this case, special care should be taken both around preserving the quality of life and education for the children at MCH and considering the irreplaceable cultural value that MCH brings to Madison through its deep history as a leading Montessori institution.

Sincerely
Elliot Meyerson

From: [Kate Alfin](#)
To: [Urban Design Comments](#)
Subject: Comments Regarding Proposed Odana Road & Medical Circle Buildings
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 10:49:03 AM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Good morning. My name is Kathleen Alfin. I am a mother with a child (two years-old) currently enrolled at Montessori Children's House, located at 5530 Medical Circle, and another child (nine months) enrolling there this fall .

I am writing to register my concern regarding the proposed mixed-use buildings on Odana Road and Medical Circle in proximity to Montessori Children's House. My primary concern is regarding the privacy and safety of children at Montessori Children's House with regards to line of sight of tenants of the proposed buildings into the playground and school more generally. It is inappropriate and potentially dangerous for residents to be able to see into a playground and school for young children. Children have the right to play and learn freely—without threat to this from anyone—and parents have the right to know that their children are safe—not in close proximity to and observable by numerous strangers—while at school.

It is with this concern in mind that I urge the commission overseeing the Odana Road project to require an increased setback for the building and remove balconies facing the playground. This will not only match the existing adjacent apartment complex standard in setback, but ensure adequate distance and privacy protection for children at Montessori Children's House. Additionally, I urge the commission overseeing the Medical Circle project to reconsider the demolition of the structure adjacent Montessori Children's House. If demolition and new construction proceeds, I beseech the commission to require any new buildings to be constructed in accordance with the height and scale of the existing structures on Medical Circle. Such this will continue to ensure the privacy and safety of children attending Montessori Children's House.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration of this matter. It means a great deal to my children, the Montessori Children's House community, and myself. Should have you have any questions of me, please feel free to e-mail or call; my contact information is included below.

Kindly,

Dr. Kathleen Alfin

katealfin@gmail.com
(608) 630-2906

From: [Julie Lyne](#)
To: [Urban Design Comments](#)
Subject: Odana Road bldg set-back
Date: Monday, March 2, 2026 9:50:50 AM

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As a former member of the MCH parent community with 2 children attending MCH on Odana Circle, I am very concerned about the proposed new development plans in this area. I wholeheartedly agree with the statements below to substantiate the need for careful decision-making at your upcoming meeting. These changes are necessary to maintain the safety and viability of our time-honored child-care center.

"I urge the Commission to require an increased setback for the Odana Rd building to match the existing apartment complex standard in setback, and remove balconies facing the MCH playground to ensure adequate distance and privacy protection for our children."

"I urge the Commission to require that all balconies be relocated away from areas overlooking the preschool playground. This is for the safety and privacy of children ages 18 months to 6 years and should be a high priority"

"I urge the Commission to reconsider the demolition of the Medical Circle site entirely, OR if new construction proceeds, require that any replacement building fits within the scale, height, and character of the existing commercial park so it doesn't negatively impact the surrounding Marshall Erdman buildings and the local businesses within them."

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~**JULIE LYNE, Madison**