

May 25, 2011

To the Members of the City Urban Design Commission:

As a member of Luther Memorial Church, I write to share my concern with the proposed development of a housing complex to be built on the corner of University Avenue and Brooks Street.

The block between Mills and Brooks has been a place of welcome to the university community for several decades. It has been a place of peace and justice during some of the most violent moments in the history of our country. The ministries on this block have opened their doors time and time again to all people from all walks of life regardless of their economic means.

The construction of an at-market rental building sends a clear signal to all students that the block caters to only those who can afford private housing. There is absolutely no doubt the University is lacking affordable housing for all students, but the construction of another expensive complex does little to help those students most in need. Sadly the proposed development would not foster the ongoing and unique mission, purpose, and social justice that has marked this block.

I ask for your thoughtful consideration of the harmful impact the construction of a complex of this nature would leave on the block. Above all else, I also thank you for your public service to people of our great city.

I am sincerely yours,

Amy M. Johnson
3314 Thorp Street
#208
Madison, WI 53714