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Sent: Friday, August 13, 2010 9:33 PM

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Subject: How could this happen?

I am copying you all with this email, and want the following suggestion made to EDC with regard to the approval process for economic development:

Alders shall be notified without exception for any development permits applied for even if those applications are in a zoning that allows the use.

Explanation: I am a very reasonable, and supportive Alder when it comes to industrial/commercial development in my district.

I have never been as upset with the process as I was upon finding out that Central Storage was adding another non descript storage building, totally visible to Cottage Grove Road and Stoughton Road, and I had no knowledge that it was happening. I was called and accused of allowing this blight to slip through by several of my constituents. Upon calling downtown, I was told that this location is M-1, therefore the Alder was not REQUIRED to be notified. I have never held up good additions to my District--look at the Dean Clinic--zoned M-1, but they worked with me, met with the neighborhood, and still were ready to dig in less than a month. In my 6 terms as Alder of the 16th District, I believe that I have made it clear that I want staff to advise me of ANYTHING happening in my district. This was not just a trip downtown for a permit, the applicant had to provide a plan to staff for approval. Why wasn't that plan sent to me to look over as well? I have had good luck working with the industrial uses in the 16th, to get a better product than giant corrugated steel buildings with huge footprints, without a redeeming architectural feature present. This HUGE edifice will be a blemish on the Cottage Grove Road corridor, and a detriment to the positive development of that corridor along with the Stoughton Road Corridor for 50+ years to come. How could this have happened?

This is NOT what is meant by the request to make the development process more streamlined. I am offended. My district is offended. Madison has a pimple on it's chin.

There is NO excuse.

Judy

Alder Judy Compton

District 16

City of Madison

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