

**From:** [BARRY M ORTON](#)  
**To:** [Parks, Timothy](#)  
**Cc:** [Planning; Martin, Arvina](#)  
**Subject:** "Madison Yards" development - Agenda items #4 & 5 - in favor  
**Date:** June 29, 2020 2:44:20 PM

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RE Legistar #60242 and #60243:

I am in favor of approval. As a co-founder of the Westside Community Market and a longtime Market volunteer, I have participated in discussions with Smith Gilbane on the return of the Market to the Central Green in Block 6 and have testified in favor at previous meetings of the Commission.

As a resident of Hill Farms for 35 years, I have long experience with the property, having spent hours helping to run the Westside Market on the site from 2005 to 2016, having taught my son and nephew to drive on the site, and experiencing many productive hours at the DMV. I believe the development will be an asset to the neighborhood. The current status of the property is a liability, and I fear that further delay of this project will result in that status remaining as such for a long time, given current economic conditions.

As an professional planner with Masters and PhD degrees in City and Regional Planning, I look forward to the development contributing to urban infill and serving as a valuable addition to the Hilldale shopping experience as well as a hub for the mid-westside. While I recognize that some have attached hope for the development to solve the area's needs for alternate transportation and sustainability, any plans for such today are akin to spitting into a high wind, in light of pandemic circumstances.

I urge the Commission to be humble right now and not let the hopes and dreams of a perfect future result in a vacant concrete parking lot for the next five or more years.

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