

From: [Michael Wick](#)
To: [Plan Commission Comments](#)
Subject: Holy Name Heights Alternation Proposal - Support - 7/29/2024 Public Hearing
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Dear Plan Commission members,

I am writing to express my support of the 6/17/24 application with the City of Madison Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development seeking approval for an alternation to the proposed “Holy Name Heights” interior build out and relocation of the entrance for a school tenant in the mixed-use building.

As part of the leadership team for the Diocese of Madison, I have been very involved with the efforts to bring St. Ambrose Academy in as an anchor tenant at Holy Name Heights campus. Since November 2022 I have served on a special committee working with representatives of the School to explore and work out a possible relocation. In January 2023 we obtain the necessary rezoning from the City of Madison and the schools alternation plan was approved. Throughout this process, members of this committee have listened and responded to the questions and concerns of the tenants, including the residents of the 53 apartments.

During these past 20 months we have responded to all inquiries, hosted two Town Hall meetings, sent out a residential survey and a follow up report, emailed weekly construction updates and even scheduled a cook out/tour of the school facilities to build positive rapport with those who share use of this 187,389 square foot building on 73 acres of land.

Before approval was given by the City of Madison to proceed with the interior build out, several residents stated that it would be in the best interest of all tenants, residents, staff and students if the School did not use the front entrance of the building as their primary entrance. These residents felt that the safety and security of everyone would be enhanced if an alternative entrance was used better segregating the school community.

The leadership of St. Ambrose Academy reflected upon these comments and after discussing the matter with the Diocese of Madison decided to petition for approval to designate the School’s primary entrance as the Northeast entrance. This makes perfect sense especially in light of Phase 2 of the School’s renovation plans that will transform the vacant pool area located on the north side of the building into multipurpose space for St. Ambrose.

In order to make this acceptable to St. Ambrose’s Safety and Security Committee, St. Ambrose Academy needs exclusive use of the northeast stairwell (except for emergencies) and also relinquish their proposed use of the central stairwell (except for emergencies).

Before formally submitting the alternation application, another town hall meeting took place and separate meetings with residents that would be directly impacted by this proposed change were held. All those in attendance gave their consent after their questions or concerns were responded to by the School.

Therefore, I believe that the proposed alternation is in the best interests of all tenants and residents and will help achieve a harmonious environment at Holy Name Heights for years to come.

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