

From: [Gilda](#)
To: [Urban Design Comments](#)
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I urge the committee members to press "pause" on agenda items 87242 and 87243. The city of Madison's reckless pursuit of affordable warehousing is a social experiment we've seen before and it was an abject failure: Most cities called this affordable housing "the projects".

People don't need warehousing: People need affordable homes. The city should build neighborhoods, not stackable storage cubes. Squeezing as many people into the least amount of space does not promote quality of life or create a tax base that can sustain the city.

These new developments are not opportunities for socio-economic parity or upward mobility. They will not provide a good quality of life or provide a path to home ownership.

Squeezing as many people into the least amount of space isn't good planning: It's a recipe for disaster. We've seen this before and we know how it ends and then begins, again. But it doesn't have to happen in Madison.

Don't re-create the mistakes of the past and destroy neighborhoods that have evolved over time into green vibrant communities. Challenge these builders to provide affordable homes that add to these communities instead of overwhelming them.

Send the city back to the drawing board: We can and must do better.

Gilda Smith