

Wells, Chris

From: Stouder, Heather
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 3:53 PM
To: Wells, Chris
Cc: Vaughn, Jessica; Firchow, Kevin
Subject: FW: Item 4. 44818: Operation Fresh Start

Chris-
Can you please make sure this gets into the packet of late items for this evening's PC meeting, and also saved in the file?

Thanks!

Heather

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael D. Barrett [mailto:mikeb[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, November 21, 2016 3:51 PM
To: bacantrell[REDACTED]; fbendada[REDACTED]; jpolewski[REDACTED];
kenopin[REDACTED]; Zellars, Ledell; mcsheppard[REDACTED];
melissaberger[REDACTED]; Carter, Sheri; King, J Steven; Stouder, Heather; All Alders; Mayor;
Mike Rewey
Cc: selbow[REDACTED]; Dean Mosiman; Bill Novak; jnichols[REDACTED]; Isthmus Davidoff;
ageyer[REDACTED]; jrath[REDACTED]; Marc Eisen
Subject: Item 4. 44818: Operation Fresh Start

To The Plan Commission, Council, Mayor:

Re:

"4. 44818 Consideration of a conditional use to allow a former place of worship to be converted into a school and offices at 2670 Milwaukee Street; 6th Ald. Dist.

"Operation Fresh Start is purchasing Holy Cross Lutheran and moving their operations from Winnebago. They are requesting a conditional use to be able lease a portion of the property to a compatible office tenant."

I strongly support Operation Fresh Start and their mission. I also support their acquisition of this property. As a general matter, I also support their leasing to office tenants.

Please be aware that there is a long standing neighborhood use of the church parking lot as a critical pedestrian/bicycle connector to the East Madison Shopping Center. Without this critical connector, access to pharmacy and library services will be degraded, even blocked. The library was a key site for early voting for the high-turnout neighborhoods to the south. The pharmacy is literally a lifeline given that our neighborhood pharmacies are closing all over town. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of walkable connectivity to neighborhoods immediately adjacent, and well south of the shopping center. East Washington is a hell-on-earth for pedestrians and cyclists.

For pedestrians and cyclists, particularly the elderly, it is a forbidden zone. Indeed, it is routine for people to be run down somewhere along that road at least on a weekly basis. We just lost an elderly lady nearby to speeding East Washington traffic. I was run down last year on East Washington to a red light runner. Hardly a week goes by that another person isn't victimized by the the city-sanctioned nastiness along E. Washington.

Without interior neighborhood connectivity, we, as a city, lose much humanity.

I realize that most (all?) of you can't imagine life without a car. And I'm disappointed to see that so much of what comes forth from your commission is entirely neglectful of people who don't have a car. Though I've long been an advocate for walking and bicycling, I have become acutely aware of the cruelty of your anti-pedestrian policies as my 83-year old mother bravely tries to maintain her independence by walking to her daily necessities & activities, even as city car-first development policies throw barrier after barrier at her.

I ask that you begin to reflect upon your car-centric priorities. Start with maintaining the interconnected neighborhood grid where it exists.

Sincerely,
Michael D. Barrett
[REDACTED] Sommers Ave
Madison, WI 53704