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**Subject:** 115 W. Doty St. at the July 1 UDC meeting  
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Urban Design Commissioners:

As chair of the Bassett District of Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc., the neighborhood association for downtown residents, I would like to comment on item #12 on the agenda for the July 1 Urban Design Commission meeting, amending the PD for the new addition and renovation of Dane County's existing Public Safety Building at 115 West Doty St.

The design team for this proposal and members of the Dane County Sheriff's office, including Sheriff Mahoney himself, met three times with downtown residents to detail plans for the expansion and renovation of the county's jail facilities, including most recently at the Bassett District monthly meeting on June 8. I very much appreciate the time and effort both the design team and the Sheriff's Office have put into meeting with downtown residents and listening to our concerns and I want to recognize the efforts that have been made to design the new and renovated jail facilities with the health and well-being of the residents of the jail in mind. Although some concerns have been expressed regarding the lack of exterior articulation and the mass and squareness of the proposed new building, I think the proposal being brought to the Urban Design Commission is a sound one, given the county's decision to expand the jail at this location, and the neighborhood is generally in support of this proposal.

At both the June Bassett meeting and the larger meeting for downtown residents hosted by Alder Verveer in December, concerns were raised regarding the Wilson Street side of the building and its interaction with the surrounding area at the ground level. As currently designed, the new structure, with a garage entrance, a staff entrance, and a ramp for delivery vehicles in a recessed area along the sidewalk with very little vegetation or green space, does not provide a particularly good pedestrian experience on Wilson Street. With the rest of the Wilson Street facade being built out to the property line, the first-floor overhang in particular raises concerns regarding the creation of a dark, unwelcoming area with a somewhat unsafe appearance. Lighting, additional landscaping, and more activation of the ground-level facilities are critical to making this side of the building a safer and more welcoming aspect of the street-level experience on this block of West Wilson St. The installation of a structured soil system, such as is currently being installed on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. outside the Madison Municipal Building and the City-County Building, to allow street trees to be successfully planted in this area should be considered.

Although the design team feels that the exterior glass used for the new structure is not overly reflective, the amount and apparent type of glass being considered raised concerns among neighborhood residents as regards bird collisions. It would be good if the Commission could verify with the designers that the glass being used will minimize the problem of bird collisions.

Again, I would say the downtown residents who have commented on this proposal are generally in favor of it. Hopefully with some further design enhancements, the expansion and renovation of Dane County's jail facilities can be made in such a way as to enhance the

downtown Madison experience.

Thank you.

Jonathan Cooper  
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