

To: City of La Crosse Planning Commission and J&A Committee

From: Deak Swanson
14 Copeland Avenue, La Crosse, WI 54601

Re: Coulee Council on Addictions Petition for Re-Zoning

Date: July 27, 2017

I am writing to share my support of CCA's request for rezoning of the Mayo Clinic Health Systems land for the new Coulee Recovery Center.

I am in recovery for more than 40 years. This community needs a safe chemical and substance free place for those wanting to interact with others seeking sobriety. The project of CCA will meet the needs of today and beyond.

I have been a part of the fundraising committee for Coulee Council and have made several large asks successfully. People understand the need for this facility and it has not been a hard to secure support. The current location would not accommodate the sort of programming that Coulee hopes to provide. The current building is outdated and not accessible for everyone. There is not room for expansion or the parking necessary to meet the needs of the facility.

As I understand it, the site being suggested has been included in the Mayo Clinic Campus boundaries and site plans for several years dating back to 1996. It meets the needs of the planned construction. Alternative sites were considered but due to space needs would have resulted in going to a two story building - adding additional costs on the project that were not necessary and not a responsible move to make financially.

In November 2016 Mayor Tim Kabat during his re-election announcement acknowledged that we have work to do related to drug addiction and abuse. The lack of treatment and programming is what has a negative impact on our neighborhoods. Coulee Council has kept the Mayor and city planning department informed throughout their process to find a new home. They have sought and listened to the advice given.

As a former alderman I understand that you are in a difficult position. Many will oppose this project for a variety of reasons. It may be difficult to say no to the nay-sayers but for the good of the community I respectfully ask that that you support this project and the re-zoning petition.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION ON
THIS VITAL PROJECT TO OUR
COMMUNITY.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,
Deak Swanson