

**Elsen, Nikki**

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**Subject:** FW: CIP- Letter of Opposition

**From:** Jacqueline Marcou <[jackmarcou@gmail.com](mailto:jackmarcou@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2020 3:00 PM

**To:** Acklin, Tim <[Acklint@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:Acklint@cityoflacrosse.org)>

**Subject:** CIP

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Hi Tim,

Hope all is well! Would you mind sending this to the Plan Commission for me ahead of today's meeting if you have time?

Dear Plan Commission,

I would like to voice my opposition to the late addition of the \$1,000,000 for property acquisition for a police law enforcement center. I feel as though given the current climate (the desire of communities to re-examine community policing as well as the pandemic) and timing is less than ideal. I feel it would be irresponsible at best to move forward with this without little current public input.

I am concerned that it was added to the budget essentially very late in the game as far as the budget process goes. This gives the community a little over a week to do their research, reach out to their elected officials and voice their concerns. That is not public engagement in my opinion.

I would also like to express my disappointment in the removal of the Weigent Park shelter from the budget. Now is the time for us as a City to be investing in our outdoor spaces. As a mother of two daughters, the parks and green space have been our saving grace during a time of uncertainty and isolation. The playground at Weigent was recently updated, and I feel the responsible thing to do would be to move forward and finish the project

I can appreciate Mayor Kabat's suggestion to the neighborhood group to privately fundraise to build the shelter, but in reality, during a pandemic when folks are laid off, struggling to get by, private fundraising is incredibly difficult to do.

I appreciate the fact the CIP Budget is a cumbersome and lengthy project and process. I also appreciate all of you for giving of your time to sit on the Commission. I would ask that you take community members' thoughts and concerns into account when making your decisions.

Thank you kindly. Be safe and well.

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