

Craig, Sondra

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Sent: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:19 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: Fwd: City Council

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Hello,

At Tuesday's J&A meeting, several comments were made and actions were attempted to be taken that beg to be addressed.

If the rezoning petition were denied, the building at 212 11th Street S would continue to be private property owned by Couleecap, the YWCA and Scenic Bluffs so debate surrounding the current and future function of the REACH center is purposeless. The sole result to denying the request is that improvements, such as solar panels, façade improvements, and interior renovations leading to beautification and efficiencies for the private agencies that function within the building would be prohibited. In fact, eliminating the possibility of solar panel installation, specifically, happens to be in direct contradiction to environmental concerns raised about the UWL parking lot debate at an earlier stage of the meeting.

The building was previously owned by Mayo Clinic Health System, therefore not on the tax roll so, again, denial of the rezoning petition would not change ownership of the property by non-profit agencies thereby not possible to add tax revenue for the city of La Crosse.

The word "privilege" is not wielded as a weapon or insult but to illuminate disparities in life experience. Having reliable transportation and access to gas money to get to a medical appointment, and even having access to reliable medical care at all...being able to take that for granted is the definition of privilege in this context. Illuminating an individual's unawareness that other people may have never been able to rely on the existence of those things among other trappings of wealth is not intended to offend but enlighten.

Adding a restriction for a dental facility to be unable to dispense opioids speaks not only to the bias that low income individuals abuse substances but infringes on a medical facility's autonomous ability to determine the details of the care they provide. We entrust our medical providers for the best care possible, including prescription pain medications. I would challenge the council members to imagine if their providers were no longer allowed to prescribe them the appropriate pain management medications after a dental procedure.

On Tuesday night, just as many residents of the neighborhood spoke in support of the rezoning petition as those that spoke in opposition. Both are your constituents. More importantly, the effect of affordable dental care at this location will be felt by more than just the individuals of district 6. Even if we were to set aside the benefit to individuals living unsheltered who desperately need this type of service, the services provided by Scenic Bluffs are for families, fixed income adults, working adults with no dental coverage, college students, seniors on Medicare which doesn't cover dental, veterans....many of which are also city residents. It seems as though concerns by a few neighborhood residents about some increased traffic should not trump the incredible benefit to so many.

Thank you for taking the time to consider these words.

Tina Tryggestad

City of La Crosse resident