

Craig, Sondra

From: Kayleigh Day <kayleighjday@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 27, 2024 6:37 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: khawthorne@scenicbluffs.org
Subject: Letter of Support

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Good evening,

I am writing to express my support for the REACH Center partner application to rezone 212 11 th Street South from 'Washburn Residential' to 'Traditional Neighborhood Development'. It is my understanding that the REACH Center is currently providing services at this location and needs to have the property rezoned in order to make updates to a dental clinic to allow a Medicaid-funded dental provider to come in.

This is an important service needed in our area. According to the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, La Crosse County is considered a dental health professional short area (HPSA). Additionally, only 15-27% of Medicaid members are able to visit the dentist for a preventive dental care appointment due to the fact that many dentists do not take or take a small number of Medicaid members.

The American Dental Association states that a growing number of people rely on hospital emergency departments to provide care for dental pain. And emergency department visits for dental health care cost three times as much as a visit to the dentist, averaging \$749 if the patient isn't hospitalized, amounting to \$1.6 billion annually (one-third of which is paid by Medicaid).

La Crosse is very fortunate to have the opportunity to acquire this service and it is desperately needed, especially in a location in La Crosse where people can access the service. The REACH Center is already providing services in its current location and needs to be able to provide this much-needed service as well. If we are going to create a safer, more prosperous La Crosse, we need to provide services that create more economic stability and healthcare costs such as dental care are an expense that can greatly impact the economic stability of individuals and families. I urge you to support this rezoning effort.

Sincerely,

Kayleigh Day

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La Crosse, WI, 54601

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