

From: melissa crook <crook6@att.net>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 5:15 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: Elsen, Nikki; sschumacher@uwlax.edu
Subject: 24-0068 UWL parking ramp

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from crook6@att.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

*** CAUTION: This email originated from an external sender. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. ***

As a close neighbor to UWL, I support the zoning change (24-0068) and subsequent development of a parking structure on 16th St on the University campus for two reasons.

1. A parking structure in this location will help to alleviate the unsafe street parking conditions on State St, Main St and other feeder streets near UWL. Additionally, this zoning change will not modify the use of this parcel as it currently houses a surface parking lot. It's common sense that the City would want UWL to build up rather than have multiple lots across campus.
2. A new parking deck will eliminate the surface parking lot by the fire station on campus, opening up space for the University to build additional housing for students. Doing so will relieve pressure on the surrounding neighborhood to provide residence solutions.

I was in attendance at the J&A meeting this week to listen to the debate surrounding this issue. There was considerable discussion about personal concerns over climate change and a desire to see a more bike and mass transit friendly city. I'm grateful to be represented by individuals that are cautious and thoughtful stewards of our planet and I laude your efforts to further that cause. However, we must also face the reality of where our society is right now. When you make your decision to vote on this zoning change, please be mindful of the following:

- As LaCrosse continues to become more bike and mass transit friendly, do you, yourself, have plans to sell your personal vehicle? If not, then why would you expect students (especially those from out of city or state) not to bring their vehicle to campus because they can potentially get around without a car?
- If you were a student, or parent of a student attending UWL, who often found themselves on campus during the evening, would commuting by bike or bus be the option you'd be most likely to choose? If your answer is no, would you prefer to have your vehicle parked in a well lit, monitored garage or on the street several blocks from campus.
- If your constituents live or often drive by campus, would they rather travel streets clogged by parked cars? How do you think the majority would respond if they realized Council had denied a request by UWL to alleviate this parking congestion? Perhaps a few phone calls or some door knocking might be in order?
- The University currently, and in the past, has had significantly more requests for parking than they can accommodate. Will this demand diminish if the parking ramp is not constructed? That seems unlikely. Denying this zoning change will only perpetuate the cost and inconvenience to residents and the City caused by commuter vehicles parked on the street.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our city and for being open to input from the community.

Sincerely,

Melissa Crook