

## Craig, Sondra

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**From:** Troy Richter <trichter@uwlax.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 13, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members  
**Cc:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** 24-0068

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I would like to respond to some of the misinformation that is being presented through letters regarding the rezoning request for 221 N. 16<sup>th</sup> Street.

One person included a link to a news article from 2018 and is using it as current information related to parking at UWL. We have more students, we have more demand (currently 575 students on our waitlist), and we have raised our parking permit rates. UWL is not inducing demand. The demand exists for many reasons including increased enrollment, increased need for students to work, increased off campus internships, field experiences, and community service.

Another piece of misinformation is related to cost. This project will not cost the Wisconsin taxpayers anything. It is funded by program revenue from Parking Services.

Parking Services staff presents at all START (freshman registration) Days, Transfer Days, and Admitted Student Days. We strongly encourage students to utilize the MTU, Coach USA, Jefferson Bus, SMRT, and ride shares instead of bringing a vehicle to campus. We actively promote alternative transportation options, including several bike programs, on our website, on display boards, and via email.

The ability to decide which student needs are more legitimate is a task that I would not wish upon anyone. How could you verify the information? Our permit process is based on student classification. Once permits are sold out, we create a wait list. When a permit is returned, we randomly pick a student from the list and offer the permit to them.

The reality of getting more on campus housing is unlikely. The Legislature and the State Building Commission have refused to approve new residence halls on the Universities of Wisconsin campuses. UWL has sought approval for the last four biennial budget cycles and has been denied each time. Therefore, UWL is not in control of adding additional on campus occupancy. In fact, the Office of Residence Life has been at or over occupancy capacity for 30+ years.

Due to decreases in State funding, universities are more reliant on tuition funding. UWL is one of very few universities to see increased enrollment in recent years. UWL's strong reputation and diversity of programs will enable us to maintain our enrollment.

City infrastructure is the responsibility of the city. I encourage the council to support ways to improve transportation, lighting, bike lanes, etc. to make La Crosse a more walkable/bikeable city. Meeting the needs of our students, employees, and guests is UWL's responsibility. UWL will continue to promote alternative transportation for our students, employees, and visitors.

The rezoning request should be supported **AND** conversations/actions to improve transportation should continue.

Respectfully,

Troy Richter



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