

## **Craig, Sondra**

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**From:** Elsen, Nikki  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 10, 2021 9:09 AM  
**To:** Craig, Sondra  
**Subject:** FW: King Street 16-Unit Build  
**Attachments:** City Council letter (1).docx

**From:** Bennett Bartheld <bennettbartheld@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 9, 2021 6:06 PM  
**To:** ZZ Council Members <ZZCouncilMembers@cityoflacrosse.org>  
**Subject:** King Street 16-Unit Build

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Dear council members,

My name is Bennett Bartheld, and I am a student here at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse where I am currently earning my degree in Public Administration. As a student, I was excited to see the application for affordable housing that Mr. Biondo made regarding the King Street apartment complex. I believe that this proposal is a good idea and it should be approved as the planning department has said the same. However, after the meetings that took place the other week, I found myself feeling disconnected from the community. During this meeting, many of the community members that opposed the new project argued that the 16-unit site would fill up with "undesirable" college students. These community members painted college students in a negative light and spoke as though all students do is drink, party, and make noise all hours of the day. The dehumanization of college students compelled me to write to you all and remind you that college students are members of this community too. Between the three campuses here in the city, total enrollment comes in at just under 17,000 students. As one of those 17,000, I can tell you that it is not easy to find safe and affordable housing in neighborhoods near campus. This challenge of finding an affordable home that is not dilapidated is exacerbated by the fact that students need to sign leases a year in advance to secure housing. The proposed development for the Washburn neighborhood would help mitigate the problems that students such as myself face, as well as providing affordable housing for young working professionals in the city. Although the loudest voices in the room were those opposed to the development, remember that as members of the council you represent all residents of the La Crosse community.