

August 6, 2024

City of La Crosse  
Planning and Zoning Commission  
400 La Crosse Street  
La Crosse, WI 54601

RE: Washburn Residential to Traditional Neighborhood Development

Dear Members of the Planning and Zoning Commission,

I am writing to express my support for rezoning 212 11th Street South from ‘Washburn Residential’ to ‘Traditional Neighborhood Development’. This change is vital for the continued growth and success of The REACH Center and its partners, particularly Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers, who provide essential services to our community.

The proposed rezoning will enable The REACH Center to undertake crucial interior and rooftop renovations that will significantly enhance the functionality and sustainability of the building. These upgrades include:

1. **Interior Lobby Renovation:** The remodel of the lobby will create a more modern and efficient space, improving the experience for all visitors and staff. A welcoming, streamlined lobby is essential for making a positive first impression and facilitating smoother operations.
2. **Dental Suites Addition:** The incorporation of dental suites will significantly expand the health services available to our community. Access to dental care is a critical component of overall health, and this addition will address a significant need in our area.
3. **Office Space Updates:** By updating existing office spaces, we can provide a better working environment for the dedicated professionals at Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers. This will improve their work conditions and enhance their ability to deliver high-quality care to our residents.
4. **Solar Panel Installation:** The rooftop renovations, including installing solar panels, demonstrate a commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. Utilizing renewable energy will reduce operating costs and serve as a model for other buildings in our community.

It is important to note that these changes will not alter the exterior footprint of the building or increase its size. There will be no additions to the exterior, no second story, and no impact on the building’s current size. The focus is optimizing the interior space and making sustainable upgrades that benefit everyone involved.

The rezoning to ‘Traditional Neighborhood Development’ aligns with our community's values and goals. It promotes a blend of residential, commercial, and public spaces that

foster a vibrant and cohesive neighborhood. This transition will support our community's continued vitality, ensuring that essential services are accessible and sustainable.

I urge you to approve this rezoning application, recognizing its significant positive impact on our community. The REACH Center and Scenic Bluffs Community Health Centers are dedicated to serving our residents and improving their quality of life. Your support for this rezoning will enable them to continue this important work more effectively and sustainably.

Thank you for being so considerate.

Sincerely,

*Jeanne M. Meyer*

Jeanne M. Meyer, MSE  
Executive Director  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the 7 Rivers Region  
315 4<sup>th</sup> Street South  
La Crosse, WI 54601  
608-461-0444