

Craig, Sondra

From: Megan Gruber <megangruber13@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 10:38 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: REACH Re-zoning

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Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for the REACH partners' pursuit of new zoning for the REACH Center. This initiative is crucial to aligning the zoning designation with the longstanding use of the building as a professional office and medical facility, which has significantly contributed to the well-being of our community since its establishment in 1957.

The REACH Center has played a vital role in providing professional services, particularly in the fields of health and social support. However, the current zoning classification, resulting from a residential re-zoning in the early 2000s, has led to the building being categorized as "non-conforming." This designation has created confusion among community members and property owners regarding allowable uses and has hindered necessary upgrades and renovations. For example, the partners are looking to add updated dental suites and solar panels to enhance service delivery and improve the building's energy efficiency, yet these essential improvements cannot be made under the current zoning conditions.

Transitioning to Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) zoning will not only clarify the permissible uses of the REACH Center but will also reinforce the ongoing commitment of REACH partners to serve the community effectively. Importantly, all proposed uses will require approval from the City of La Crosse Common Council, ensuring that stakeholders have a say in the operational scope of the facility. The list of allowable uses includes invaluable services such as primary medical care, dental care, social services, and community education—all aimed at fostering health and well-being within our community.

It is also important to clarify misconceptions regarding the use of the REACH Center. There are no plans to establish a methadone clinic, drug treatment facility, or any form of shelter. As reiterated, the intention is solely to provide professional office-based services that align with community needs, and the zoning application reflects those commitments.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly support the effort to rezone the REACH Center to TND zoning. This change will not only rectify the current misalignment of usage and zoning but will also empower the REACH partners to continue delivering essential services without the constraints and complications posed by the existing non-conforming status. I encourage other community members and stakeholders to lend their voices in support of this important initiative.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for considering the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Megan Gruber

La Crosse Resident