

Craig, Sondra

From: Monica Gorski <mhofmann5@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:33 PM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: Elsen, Nikki
Subject: Neighbor in support of REACH rezoning

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Hello,

I'm writing as a neighbor in support of the REACH Center rezoning. My family and I live 2 blocks from the center, and I walk by it on my way to the Y and then on my way to work downtown every day. When the weather's nice, you'll often see my husband and I walking around the block with our young children on their bikes.

I served on the Heritage Preservation Commission for the city and deeply appreciate the historic neighborhood we live in. It's clear to me that the aesthetics of the existing building have nothing to do with this rezoning, however. If anything, rezoning might enable them to make improvements to better weave into our historic neighborhood--not to mention making the building energy efficient and sustainable. With thoughtful planning and collaborating, we really can do both! That starts with conforming to appropriate zoning.

While I understand the concerns of opponents, I think the sad reality is that most of these concerns would have been more appropriate in the 1950s and in the early 2000s, when the building was constructed and then inappropriately zoned. At this point, the building has been here for almost 70 years. It is now fortunately housing a collection of resources that provide essential services to vulnerable people. They are trying to get it appropriately zoned so that they can take care of the building and continue the important work they do. And I support that.

There are indeed issues in our neighborhood and definitely changes I would love to see, too. But restricting community resources like the REACH Center is not one of them.

Thanks for your time and attention.
Monica Gorski