

Craig, Sondra

From: Thomas Link <dakota.link3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 11:15 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Cc: Hetti Brown
Subject: Rezoning proposal regarding the REACH Center

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Dear City Council members,

I want to express my support for the rezoning proposal for the REACH Center. I have reviewed the proposal and the intended improvements to the building and believe the additional services that will be provided are greatly needed.

I don't understand how anyone can complain about dental services being provided to those who can't afford to pay for those services. It's my understanding that St. Clare Health Mission does not provide routine dental services so by providing that service the REACH Center will fill that need.

I also don't understand how anyone can complain about installing solar panels on the roof. I would encourage anyone to have solar panels in order to decrease their carbon footprint and utilize more sustainable electric energy.

According to the proposal, the building's footprint will not change and upper floors are not going to be added. The proposal does not include methadone treatment or housing for unsheltered people.

I hear many people complain about the "homeless problem." I hate to see people sleeping outdoors in cold weather and I complain about the trash that accumulates. But I can still be empathetic. I have chosen to take a more positive approach and encourage others to do so. Complaining does not solve anything. There is no quick solution to this national problem. We are talking about human beings who have basic human needs. The REACH Center is one place where folks in need can get a variety of services.

I've lived and worked in the LaCrosse area for over 35 years. I've been a home owner in the city of LaCrosse, but currently rent at Washburn Apartments, not far from the REACH Center. I'm a long time volunteer at the Exchange, providing furniture and household items to those individuals and families who have found shelter. This is a collaborative endeavor which is what is needed to alleviate the challenges of poverty. The REACH Center is very much a collaboration of several agencies.

Please allow those agencies to add to the services they currently provide by voting for the rezoning to Traditional Neighborhood Development.

Thank you,
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