

Craig, Sondra

From: Anna Sprague <sprague.anna@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 24, 2024 8:28 AM
To: ZZ Council Members
Subject: REACH Center rezoning

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Hello City Council members, I'm emailing in support of the rezoning petition for the REACH Center that will be on an upcoming meeting agenda.

As a La Crosse resident, I was proud to see both local and state interest in such a collaborative resource for our community. The expansion of services will hit on areas that we know are a major need locally like easy and affordable access to dental services which I remember being an eye-opening experience when we were the host of the Mission of Mercy dental event years ago.

I have seen the resources available at the REACH get mentioned more and more in social media groups as people face the challenges that come with the reality that wages have not grown in tandem with the costs of housing and other basic needs in our community. In no way do I think the REACH center is a single solution, but I greatly appreciate that it can serve as the first step for many--when someone is struggling, it can take an immense amount of effort just to take that first step. The REACH has already gained awareness and trust in the first year of operation to become a go-to recommendation, and I have also heard it referenced in neighboring counties as a gap area they wish could be filled more locally. Approving the rezoning requirements for the REACH Center will allow more effective use of both the physical building and client services and allow La Crosse to continue showing how we are leaders in our area when it comes to building community.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this decision. I encourage you to support the rezoning needed to continue its ability to serve our community..

Anna Sprague

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"Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?"
Mary Oliver, *The Summer Day*