

Craig, Sondra

From: Kevin Hundt <kevinhundt0@gmail.com>
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To: ZZ City Clerk External
Subject: Comment in support of 24-0516

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La Crosse currently has several USDA-designated Food Deserts, meaning areas which are low-income and distant from a grocery store, which can be viewed here: <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/>. We also have a major problem of being too low-density, which makes businesses which cater to foot traffic less viable, and increases infrastructure costs compared to the tax base reached by that infrastructure.

This is a perfect location for a grocery store and high-density housing. It's right in the middle of a food desert, and along a major transportation corridor that could be easily served by bus service (but isn't currently!). In fact, about a decade ago when I started looking into grocery stores and food deserts, I identified the existing building as a viable candidate for a small grocery store. Obviously, I didn't have the money or business knowledge to make it happen, and a more modern purpose-built grocery building with apartments above it is a much better idea.

My only concern is that the apartments might be lower-density and/or more expensive than they should be, so it would be nice to have more details on the plan. That said, I have patronized the petitioner's store and can confirm that they have good stuff, so I'm looking forward to this new store.

Kevin Hundt
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