

Carol Barone

From: Mari Lu <mar1060pcm@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2017 1:02 PM
To: Carol Barone
Subject: MacDonnell Heights Project

My friend & their family would be directly affected by this project. They felt they could not be objective since they are quite emotional about the drastic changes so I decided to do a little research on my own to see what was upsetting them. I've looked at the drawings and read the letters and notices and thought it would be good for people to hear an unbiased opinion on the circumstance.

1. Impacts on the Lutheran Care Center: Since there will be a ton of housing complexes, I imagine that they are going to have to be lit at all times. In addition, the amount of noise that is going to come from them at all hours of the night, is not going to make it a pleasant place to live in. No one is going to want to send their family members there because it is no longer a peaceful place to recover, which could adversely affect jobs. If there are no residents, there are no need for workers.
2. Job creation: There is an argument that this project is going to create all these jobs. Now, that may be true that you are adding jobs, but you are not adding careers. The draw to a live in a location is whether or not you can have a future. Minimum wage jobs are not something people strive for. If there were plans for some big industry, I could see an intrigue, but from everything that has been proposed, that's not what is going there.
3. Size and amount of buildings proposed: 3 stories are a tad excessive. If you have to build anything commercial, which considering all the vacant businesses along 44 I don't really see a need to, 3 story buildings are way too big. Even the apartment/condo complexes, at three stories, you are going to be able to look into all the current homes that border this project. It's unnecessary to put something that enormous directly around regular sized homes.
4. Traffic: If all the proposed housing is built, there is going to be a minimum of 400-800 cars a day entering and exiting onto 44. Route 44 is already so busy that I take the back roads as it is. This would further encourage me to do so because I don't want to spend my commute sitting in traffic. Since I know that I won't be travelling on 44, I can tell you that I won't be patronizing any of those businesses. I wouldn't be worth the headache to get there when we already have a "one stop" plaza right down the road on Burnett Boulevard. More alarming is the fact that firetrucks and ambulances have to frequent the Lutheran Care Center. If 44 becomes any more congested, it's going to be harder and harder for emergency vehicles to get to where they are going. Are you willing to risk people's lives for the possibility of making a few bucks?

I'm not going to say that nothing should be built but definitely not at that scope. It's too big! A smaller scale project would fit the community much better. If anything, do it pieces to prove the concept that it's going to do all these great things that it's claiming to give back to the community. It's a shame, because currently, it sounds like this project cares more about the people who don't live here (the ones you are trying to intrigue to move here) than the residents who already do. I can honestly say, if I lived in the immediate area, I would 100% move. I truly hope that the Town does not just value the opinion of the influential business owners but the people who are going to have to live with it for the rest of their lives.

Respectfully,

