

JUNE 25, 2018

MAYOR EHLEY,

RECEIVED

JUN 26 2018

TO MY MIND, THE MOST RECENT CARVE-OUTS AND TRADE-OFFS PROPOSED FOR THE REMAINING NATURAL LAND IN THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT OF THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY GROUNDS DO A POOR JOB OF BALANCING DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

THE LAST NATURAL BUFFERS IN THE AREA SURROUNDING "SANCTUARY WOODS" HOLD A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE, AS THEY ARE ZONES OF HABITAT FOR WILDLIFE SPECIES WITH ACUTE SENSITIVITY TO HUMAN DISTURBANCE. THE PRIMARY REASON THAT THE LONG-EARED OWL LIVES IN THESE ZONES IS THAT THEY PROVIDE THE TYPE OF DENSE COVER THAT THIS OWL SPECIES NEEDS TO FEEL SAFE WHILE HUNTING. IN THE CASE OF THE BUTLER'S GARTER SNAKE (LISTED BY OUR DNR AS A SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN), THESE RESIDENT ANIMALS WHILE SURELY DIE IN GREAT NUMBERS IF THE EXTENSION OF NORTH 92<sup>ND</sup> STREET IS EVER IMPLEMENTED. IF THIS ROAD "IMPROVEMENT" IS EVER REALIZED, IT WOULD CUT A GASH DIRECTLY THROUGH THE HEART OF SANCTUARY WOODS - DIVIDING AND FRAGMENTING CRUCIAL SPECIES HABITAT ZONES.

FOR THE LAST 20-ODD YEARS, THE NATURAL INTEGRITY OF THE NORTHEAST QUADRANT HAS BEEN RADICALLY ALTERED. 90 ACRES HAVE BEEN CUT OUT FOR VARIOUS TYPES OF DEVELOPMENT -

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ON THE PROMISE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO MORE PRIVATE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON THE QUADRANT. IT SEEMS THAT THE MILWAUKEE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION'S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HAS SEEN FIT TO BREAK THIS PROMISE, WITH ITS REPEATED PROPOSALS FOR EVER-MORE PROJECTS FOR THIS QUADRANT.

I DO HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE WHEN I SAY THAT WE AS A HUMAN SOCIETY, ARE CHARGING HEAD-LONG STRAIGHT TO THE PRECIPICE IN THIS RELENTLESS DRIVE TO PROVIDE FOR ONLY OUR OWN SPECIES WITH SCARCELY A THOUGHT FOR THE NEEDS OF THE MYRIAD OTHER LIFE FORMS WITH WHOM WE SHARE THIS NATURAL EARTH. I URGE YOU TO REALIZE THAT THE VERY NATURAL SYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT ALL LIFE ON THIS PLANET, INCLUDING OUR OWN, ARE IN TROUBLE AS NEVER BEFORE. THERE IS A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KEEPING THOSE SYSTEMS HEALTHY AND MAINTAINING OUR OWN HUMAN QUALITY OF LIFE.

WE NEED TO RADICALLY DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

WITH YOUR LEADERSHIP, WE CAN HELP TO ENSURE THAT ALL OF THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION RIGHT HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY, WILL

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COME TO FRUITION.

I HUMBLY ASK YOU TO PLEASE -  
PROTECT SANCTUARY WOODS IN ITS  
ENTIRETY, NO MORE ROADS OR ROAD  
EXTENSIONS, CRUCIAL ECOLOGICAL  
BUFFERS AROUND SANCTUARY WOODS  
PROTECTED, AND ACT IN GOOD FAITH  
WITH MILWAUKEE AND WAUNATOSA  
RESIDENTS BY KEEPING THIS LAST  
NATURAL AREA WHOLE.

I THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE  
TIME.

CONCERNED,



FRED RETZLAFF  
5011 N. 110<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
MILWAUKEE, WI 53225-3811