

Adam and Shawna Stueck  
1757 Cabinet Maker Court  
Green Bay, WI 54303

November 16, 2011

Village of Howard Plan Commission  
Howard Village Board of Trustees  
President Burt McIntyre

Dear President McIntyre, Plan Commissioners and Trustees:

My family and I have been residents of the village of Howard since July, 2004. I am writing to express my concern and ask you to please consider implementing a temporary moratorium on multi-family housing construction.

Our decision to relocate our family of five to Howard was based upon the school district, the esthetic qualities of the community, and access to clean and safe parks. Upon moving, we had concerns with the amount of multi-unit apartment complexes. However, we were continually eased by what neighbors would tell us about the quiet and family-friendly nature of the area. We found that to be the case, for a time.

Over the last few years, we have seen an increase in short-term, transient residents in these apartment complexes. Almost weekly, there is a different couch, stained mattress, or broken remains of personal property that line our street and curbs- the same ones that our children wait for their school buses on. As quickly as one (or several) vacate, others seems to take their place. We are aware of this simply because we will start to see new people walking from one apartment complex to the south of our house, across our yard and private property, through our neighbor's yards across the street, and on to the apartment complexes to the north of our house. This has become such a concern with us and our neighbors that we have all implemented fences or lined our yards with sections of brush or structures in an attempt to stop the flow of trespassers.

Additionally, what used to be thought of as a nice, quiet, safe area has seen increased crime and ordinance violations. Just yesterday, while driving home from work on Lenwood Avenue, four teenagers on bicycles were riding, and swerving, down the center of the road, directly blocking all east and west drivers. When I honked two of them made an obscene hand gesture and swore at me while laughing. I rolled down my window and asked one boy if he would like me to call the police, to which he replied that I could. (I am paraphrasing and removing the swear words.) I called the police while the boys continued to block traffic and then, finally, rode off on their bikes to one of the large apartment complexes. This is just one of many incidences.

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Furthermore, what once started as a nice, small, community-like school setting of Howard Elementary has grown exponentially into a school bogged down with overcrowding, transient students, and poverty. Storage areas and closets needed to be emptied in order to make new classrooms to address the increased enrollment, and many children (including my own) come home exhausted and stressed as a side effect of this overcrowding. This is the greatest shame.

It is my dearest belief that the needs of Howard taxpayers are best served in many areas, none of which are benefited by allowing another corporation to farm out our safety, our schools, our sanity, and our children's futures just so that they can continue to warehouse people to turn a profit. They are ultimately the only "winners" if this is allowed; the rest of us are the "losers", and the price of that loss will affect our community and its tax payers for years to come. That price is simply too high to pay.

Sincerely,



Adam and Shawna Stueck

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Received via  
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