

To our friends and neighbors in Elm Grove,

To those of you we don't know, our family has lived at 920 Katherine Drive in Elm Grove for the past three years. We were shocked and appalled to see the plans proposed by Wangard for the Reinder's property directly across the street from our home with plans to encroach on our property as the proposal currently stands. As one of the few families immediately affected by this proposed development, we were disappointed that our first notification of the project was from the Journal Sentinel.

The scale of the project is absolutely tremendous in size with plans for 182 apartments in multi-level buildings dwarfing the current structures in the village. It would be utterly out of place in our charming downtown to make the focus of our village a mass of housing complexes developed for maximum capacity and profit. These towering eye sores certainly won't convey the same small town, village feel you get when you cross the railroad tracks on Watertown Plank Road and drive past the Elm Grove Park & Shop sign when it is lit up in the evening.

We are not against progress and improvement of our community by any means. We have probably the best vantage point from our bedroom window of the Reinder's property as it currently stands and it certainly isn't anything to put on a postcard. However, the proposed plans for development of this parcel of land are entirely incongruous with the Elm Grove that we know and love. We would be willing to consider alternative plans for permanent housing and business developments on a much smaller scale than what is proposed because it would enhance the aesthetic of our downtown and contribute to village life. Building a Walmart-style apartment complex is not synonymous with our community values and certainly will take away from the traits that made this village "The Best Suburb in America."

We came to this gem of a community with plans to raise our two children and become lifelong residents like the many families we have met in our neighborhood who have done the same. While we have only lived here three short years, we take immense pride in this village and seemingly, have become very protective of it. We run into the same people over and over again at the park and they have become our friends. We know the cashiers at Sendik's by name. We stop to talk to our neighbors as we take an evening stroll in the summer. The sense of community and cohesiveness we have in Elm Grove was built by people who have resided here for decades and have planted firm roots here as we intend to do. A massive housing complex with residents just passing through with no vested interest in our neighborhood does not add value to our village. We see this proposal as a serious threat to the village life that we and our neighbors cherish and enjoy. Elm Grove is a haven and is not comparable to any other place we have ever lived. We would like to keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Drs. Crystal Kleiber Balderrama and Tadeo Diaz Balderrama  
920 Katherine Drive