From: Marcus Rempel []
Sent: Sunday, January 02, 2005 4:14 AM
To: Park, Jo-Ann
Subject: Waverly West

To the City Clerk:

I am writing to register my opposition to the plan of developing of Waverly West for residential expansion of the City of Winnipeg. I see two major detriments of such an expansion: infrastructure and environmental costs.

Winnipeg has a very low population density compared to other major cities in Canada. This means that a much smaller tax base has to support all those roads, sewage pipes, etc. that service Winnipeg's residential neighbourhoods. The City of Winnipeg's infrastructure budget is already overtaxed. We need to focus on revitalizing what we already have, not overextend ourselves further in this area.

The number 1 priority suggested by both the David Suzuki foundation and the Union of Concerned Scientists to consumers who want to effectively decrease their environmental impact is to choose a place to live that is close to where you work, due to the massive ecological costs of North American commuting travel. This implies that creating another suburb is one of the ecologically most destructive endeavors the City of Winnipeg could do. On the other hand, creating incentives for people to live close to where the jobs are, ie. revitalizing residential neighbourhoods in the city's core, is probably the environmental strategy with the greatest impact that the City could devise. Yes, this will require a new approach for our construction industry and the clientele whose demands for large suburban homes they are currently responding to, but the problems of global climate change, pollution and habitat loss demand this change.

Sincerely,

Marcus Rempel

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